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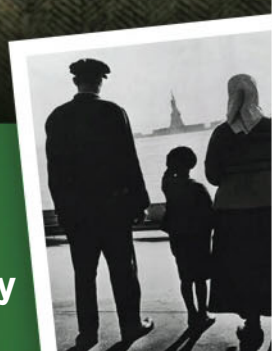
Top 10 places in history

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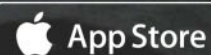
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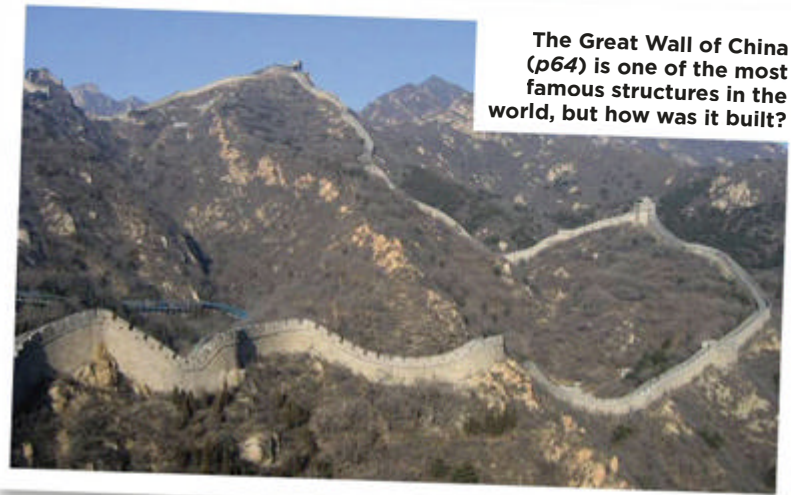
# Welcome



When the last boat left Dunkirk, France, in early summer 1940, carrying what it could of **the defeated British Expeditionary Force** and its allies, many soldiers – my own grandfather among them – were left behind. Those lucky enough to make

it across the Channel were battered and bruised, and it seemed to all the world as though **Hitler had now defeated Britain**, just as he had trampled across Europe. Had it not been for the heroic actions of the men and women who held off the Luftwaffe, then **Hitler's plans to invade Britain may well have proved decisive**, and this would be a very different world to the one we know. As we approach the **75th anniversary**, we salute the victors of **the Battle of Britain** from page 30.

Another anniversary this summer that holds huge significance for freedom fighters is **Magna Carta – the Great Charter**, and the blueprint for 800 years of global campaigning. Who knows what kind of society we'd be living in today **had King John not been so abominable** a monarch (p52).



The Great Wall of China (p64) is one of the most famous structures in the world, but how was it built?

As ever, this is a packed issue, bringing you **stories from around the globe**, with **Ancient Romans and Egyptians** (p68), the **Aztecs in Mexico** (p82), immigrants in the **USA** (p74), the **Great Wall of China** (p64) and the **Eastern Bloc** during the Cold War (p63) all being brought back to life.

Do write and let us know what you think!

Paul McGuinness  
Editor

**Don't miss our June issue, on sale 28 May**

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## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**8**

The age of the boy  
used as the first test  
subject for Edward  
Jenner's smallpox  
vaccine. See page 24.

**12.74 million 40**

The total size, in square miles,  
of the Mongol Empire. It was the  
largest empire on Earth until 1922,  
when another power dominated  
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The percentage of  
today's Americans  
whose ancestors filed  
through Ellis Island.  
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Your key to the big stories...







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“Never... was so much owed,  
by so many, to so few.”

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MAY 2015

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## READER SURVEY

Let us know what you think of the magazine on **page 9**



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**MAN'S BEST FRIEND**  
Our famous hounds reminded  
Bedwyr of an old Welsh tale

## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions  
on history and our magazine

### TWO TAILS

I was intrigued to read about the Saintly Guinefort, the 13th-century French greyhound slain after his master mistakenly thought that the dog had killed his son (Top Ten, February 2015). A similar story exists in North Wales, as a supposed explanation for the name of a small village.

**“A similar story exists in north Wales, as an explanation for the name of a small village...”**

Beddgelert (literally Gelert's Grave) is purportedly the resting place of Gelert, faithful hound of Llywelyn the Great, a 13th-century prince of north Wales. According to legend, while out hunting one day Llywelyn noticed that Gelert was not by his side. Upon returning

home, Llywelyn found his infant's cot empty and Gelert's mouth smeared with blood. The Prince immediately plunged his sword into the dog's side, assuming that it had killed his heir. When the dog's dying howl was answered by a child's cry from the next room, Llywelyn

rushed through to find his unharmed child lying next to the body of a wolf which Gelert had killed. Llywelyn is said never to have smiled again.

The place name is first recorded in 1258 as 'Bekelert', possibly named after a man (not a dog) called Celert. From around the

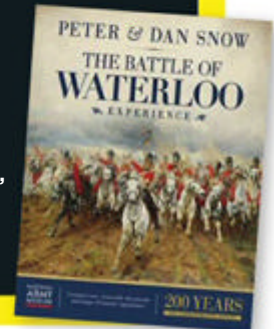
16th century, it seems that the village has been associated with what is a Welsh version of an international folk tale. This was further reinforced in the 18th century when a gravestone was erected on the supposed site of Gelert's grave. Tourists flock there in their thousands to this day.

I've only just found the magazine and I think it's excellent. Keep up the good work.  
**Bedwyr Rees,**  
via email

**Editor replies:** It is fascinating that this tale spread through medieval Europe and, indeed, beyond. Variations on the same story

appear in Malaysian and Indian cultures, and there's even a nod to the tragedy in Disney's *Lady and the Tramp* (1955).

**Bedwyr Rees wins *The Battle of Waterloo Experience* by Peter and Dan Snow. Published by Carlton Books, worth £30. This hardback book tells the story of Napoleon's rise and ultimate fall, and boasts rare historic documents.**



**f** I think that this issue of the magazine is interesting. Learned a lot. The Tudors are one of my favourite dynasties and always like to find out more about them. That includes the extended family. Reading the snapshots are fascinating.  
Emily Kelly

### FATE OF THE FRONTIERSMAN

The article on The Alamo (Battlefield, March 2015) was generally good, but the claim that the fate of Davy Crockett is unknown needs examination. His body was identified after the battle by a Ms Dickinson, who saw him in the area between the chapel and the barracks. The body was also identified by the mayor of San Antonio, who knew Crockett.

**DAVY CROCKETT**  
Thomas Beach believes  
we do know where  
Crockett died

The controversy stems from a later claim that Crockett had been among a small group of Texans who surrendered and were executed by order of Santa Anna. This was later noted in a diary supposedly written by José Enrique de la Peña, an officer with the Mexican army, a translation of which was published in 1975. The authenticity of the diary has been questioned. Even if true, as officer prisoners were generally treated better than common soldiers were, it is possible that one of the survivors claimed to be Crockett in an attempt to avoid death. Peña, who did not know Crockett, would not have known the difference.

The most reliable evidence is that Crockett died in the battle.

**Thomas Beach,**  
Michigan, USA

**Editor replies:** Crockett's death has long stumped history fans. While there is much evidence that he died in battle, there are several accounts – of which Peña's is just one – that he surrendered. And Ms Dickinson's account is less reliable than it first seems, as it is second hand – the only words we have directly from her merely state that she believed Crockett to be dead. So much do the reports conflict that, for the meantime at least, most historians are content to call his death a mystery.

**This @HistoryRevMag piece on c18th lady pirates is great, especially Anne Bonny; “rebel, seductress, lesbian and drunk.” As job titles go... @John\_Bizzell**

### THAT'S INFO-TAINMENT

I'm writing to thank you and your team for creating such

an excellent and informative monthly celebration of history.

As part of my English GCSE, I had to find some different non-fiction and media texts to analyse. So I went to the newsagents and picked up your history magazine. When I got home and started looking through it for an article to analyse, I was instantly hooked. Within just a couple of hours I'd read the whole thing, cover-to-cover and before lunch, I'd subscribed for the year and I'm now eagerly awaiting my next issue.

I've been wanting to take more of an interest in the subject for a while, as soon enough I'll be taking it at A-level, but I had no idea where to start. However, *History Revealed* magazine contains the perfect combination of short and extended articles, about all sorts of historical events and people.



So thank you for opening up my mind to the possibilities of the past and popping my historical cherry.

**Daniel Chapman,**  
via email

**f** Love the magazine. I can't wait to open my mail when it comes so I can devour it in one sitting. Please keep up the good work!  
Sue Voorhees

## IT'S CRIMINAL

A really good edition (April 2015) as always, but am I alone in thinking that the portrayals of Dick Turpin (The Extraordinary Tale of...), Henry Hill (The Reel Story: *Goodfellas*) and the Great Train Robbers (Yesterday's Papers) have been romantically distorted by television and movies?

All these criminals have been given fairly favourable images by the media and that's the one people tend to believe. It's been said: 'When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.' I don't agree, it's time to print the facts.

**Gabby Cancellor,**  
via email

## Editor replies:

We quite agree, Gabby, and that's why we were so keen to print the truth behind these stories.

**f** Finding the new edition of @HistoryRevMag in the shop already has made my morning!  
@nolsw

## THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

Dr Goldsworthy has produced a very succinct presentation of the Napoleonic Wars (The Big Story) in the April 2015 issue.

I have observed that the picture of Napoleon at Toulon shows him



**FANCY PANTS**  
Napoleon wore a more simple uniform than this image shows

in a much later uniform, rather than the artillery officer's apparel he would have worn in 1793.

**Roger Edwards,**  
via email

**Editor replies:** Well spotted, Roger. As Napoleon was a leader of such great legend, it was quite common for artists to depict him in his most heroic-looking uniforms. This is one such instance of artistic license over historical accuracy.

**f** Very useful introduction to Napoleon and Waterloo in @HistoryRevMag this month. Realised how little I knew!  
@whittake7

## MARILYN'S MYSTERY

I read, with great interest, the life and sad downfall of Marilyn Monroe (History Makers, March 2015). Since her death in 1962, there has been much speculation as to whether she committed suicide, accidentally overdosed or was murdered.

I do not believe that Monroe's death was properly investigated at the time. If she was involved with both John F and Bobby Kennedy,

**CHARACTER BOOST**  
For one reader, TV and movies distort the truth too much

did they know more than what was said? Both acted like they never knew her once she died.

Joe DiMaggio clearly blamed others for her death. He refused to have celebrities at her funeral and never spoke to any of them again.

The fact is that nobody helped her at the end. Peter Lawford was alleged to have phoned her the night she died to invite her to a party. He said she told him to say goodbye to everyone and what did he do about it? His failure to respond shows how little people cared about Monroe by the time of her death.

**Mrs SJ Kemp**  
Kent

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 13 are:  
**R Newman**, North Yorkshire  
**CJ Deacy**, Cheshire  
**Elena Zhelezina**, Cambridgeshire  
Well done! You have each won **A History of the 20th Century in Maps** by Tom Harper and Tim Bryars, worth £25.  
To test your wits this month, turn to page 96.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## Reader Survey 2015



Dear reader,

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Paul

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Please send in your completed questionnaire by 24 May 2015, or alternatively you can fill it in online at [historyextra.com/revealedsurvey](http://historyextra.com/revealedsurvey).

Everyone who returns a completed questionnaire by 24 May 2015 will have the opportunity to enter our prize draw, for a chance to win an iPad Mini 3 16GB (wi-fi) worth £319. Please see our T&Cs on page 10 for more information.

### A. Magazine-reading behaviour

#### 1. How often do you buy *History Revealed*?

- Every issue – I am a subscriber ☐ 1  
Every issue but don't subscribe (go to Q3) ☐ 2  
Every other month (go to Q3) ☐ 3  
3-6 issues per year (go to Q3) ☐ 4  
Less than 3 issues per year (go to Q3) ☐ 5  
This is my first issue (go to Q3) ☐ 6

#### 2. Approximately how long did you buy *History Revealed* for before you subscribed?

- I've always been a subscriber ☐ 1  
Less than 3 months ☐ 2  
Roughly 3-5 months ☐ 3  
Roughly 6-8 months ☐ 4  
Roughly 9-11 months ☐ 5  
A year or more ☐ 6

#### 3. On average how long do you spend reading an issue of *History Revealed*?

- Under 30 minutes ☐ 1  
Between 30 minutes and 1 hour ☐ 2  
Between 1 and 2 hours ☐ 3  
Between 2 and 3 hours ☐ 4  
Between 3 and 4 hours ☐ 5  
Between 4 and 5 hours ☐ 6  
Longer than 5 hours ☐ 7

#### 4. Thinking about an average issue of *History Revealed*, how many other people read or look at your copy for longer than 2 minutes?

- Nobody else (go to Q6) ☐ 1  
1-2 people ☐ 2  
3-4 people ☐ 3  
5-6 people ☐ 4  
7-8 people ☐ 5  
More than 8 people ☐ 6

#### 5. And who has read or looked at any of your copies of *History Revealed* for longer than 2 minutes?

- My partner ☐ 1  
Friends ☐ 2  
Children aged 18+ years ☐ 3  
Children aged under 18 years ☐ 4  
Other family member ☐ 5  
Not sure ☐ 6

#### 6. Which of these best describes who you buy *History Revealed* for?

- Mainly for myself (I am aged 25+) ☐ 1

- Mainly for myself (I am under 25) ☐ 2  
Mainly for my children ☐ 3  
For the whole family ☐ 4

#### 7. Which of these describes what version of *History Revealed* magazine you read?

- Paper copy ☐ 1  
Digital version on Kindle, tablet or smartphone (go to Q10) ☐ 2  
Mix of paper and digital copies (go to Q10) ☐ 3

#### 8. Were you aware that *History Revealed* was available as a digital version?

- Yes ☐ 1  
No ☐ 2

#### 9. And which of these options could encourage you to try a digital version of *History Revealed*? Please select as many as apply.

- Special subscription deal ☐ 01  
Additional content ☐ 02  
Interactive visuals/ graphics ☐ 03  
Extended video interviews ☐ 04  
Integrated sound bites ☐ 05  
Digital and paper magazine bundle offer ☐ 06  
Other (please specify)..... ☐ 06

#### 10. How often do you buy the following history magazines?

- |                      | 1                        | 2                        | 3                        | 4                        | 5                        | 6                        |
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| History of War       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Britain at War       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 11. Why do you read *History Revealed* magazine? Please select a main reason, and then as many other reasons as apply.

- |                                  | Main reason              | Other reason             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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| For education                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For information                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For background to current events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### B. Magazine evaluation

#### 12. Overall, how would you rate *History Revealed*?

- Excellent ☐ 1 Good ☐ 2 Average ☐ 3  
Poor ☐ 4 Very poor ☐ 5

#### 13. *History Revealed* costs £3.99. What do you think of this in terms of value for money?

- Very good value ☐ 1  
Good value ☐ 2  
Average value ☐ 3  
Poor value ☐ 4  
Very poor value ☐ 5

#### 14. How much did you enjoy this issue of *History Revealed*?

- Very much ☐ 1  
Quite a lot ☐ 2  
Not that much ☐ 3  
Not at all ☐ 4  
Didn't read this issue yet (go to Q16) ☐ 5

#### 15. Listed below are the articles in this issue of *History Revealed*. For each item please tick the column that comes closest to your opinion.

- |   | Very interesting         | Quite interesting        | Not very interesting     | Not at all interesting   | Did not read             |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Snapshot: Hindenburg Disaster p12           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Snapshot: Tea Drinking p14                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Snapshot: Star Wars p16                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I read the news today p18                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yesterday's Papers:                         |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| The Moors Murders p20                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Graphic History: Record Breakers p22        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What Happened Next?:                        |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Smallpox vaccination p24                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Tale of... Kasper Hauser p26            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Big Story: Battle of Britain p30        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History Makers: Bad King John p52           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Timeline: Magna Carta p58                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Q&A p61                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In a Nutshell: The Hungarian Revolution p63 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How Did They... The Great Wall of China p64 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Battlefield: Actium p68                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In Pictures: Ellis Island p74               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Top 10: Greatest Cities p80                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Great Adventures: Hernán Cortés p82         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Reel Story: Les Misérables p88          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On Our Radar p92                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Books p94                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A-Z: E p98                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 16. How often do you look at the adverts in *History Revealed*?

- Always ☐ 1 Sometimes ☐ 2  
Rarely ☐ 3 Never ☐ 4

#### 17. Has reading *History Revealed* ever led you to do any of the following? Please select as many as apply.

- Visit the magazine's website ☐ 1  
Attend an event/ exhibition ☐ 2  
Buy a recommended book ☐ 3  
Buy another product advertised/ reviewed ☐ 4  
Visit the website of an advertised product/ service ☐ 5  
Contact an advertiser ☐ 6  
Go online to research an article further ☐ 7

#### 18. Do you have any other comments on *History Revealed*?

### C. History behaviour and interests

#### 19. Which of these statements describe your interest in history? Choose as many statements as apply.

- I am interested in history as a hobby. ☐ 1  
I am interested in history as a parent of a child studying it. ☐ 2  
I am interested in history as a student of it. ☐ 3  
I am interested in history as a teacher/ lecturer. ☐ 4  
I am interested in history as part of work pursuits. ☐ 5

#### 20. Which of these statements best describes your relationship with history? Please choose one.

- History is a part of my daily life; I am passionate about it and consider myself an expert. ☐ 1  
I am interested in history as a hobby; I enjoy growing my knowledge and exploring the subject. ☐ 2  
I dip in and out of history. I might buy a magazine when the cover interests me, or if it might be of use for someone else. ☐ 3  
I like to read about people or events I see in TV, film and on the news, but wouldn't consider history a hobby as such. ☐ 4

#### 21. Have you taken or are you interested in taking any of the following qualifications?

- |   | Achieved                 | Interested in taking     | Not interested in taking |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| History GCSE  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History A-level   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History-related degree/ masters                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History-related doctorate or equivalent level qualification | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History short course/ non-formal qualification              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |







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# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

## SNAPSHOT

# 1937

## “OH, THE HUMANITY!”

It took less than a minute for the giant German airship *Hindenburg* to be engulfed in flames – before crashing to the ground in a heap of blazing, broken girders.

At the end of a transatlantic journey, the *Hindenburg* was struggling to dock in New Jersey when its highly flammable hydrogen ignited. Chaos ensued as passengers leapt from the 245-metre-long airship and ground crew rushed forward to drag them to safety. Miraculously, most of the 97 people on board survived.

News of the 36 deaths, along with the shocking images and radio announcer Herb Morrison’s emotional description of the scene – which included the immortal exclamation, “Oh, the humanity!” – spread around the world, signalling the end of the airship era.









**SNAPSHOT**

**1922**

**SLOW AND STEADY  
WINS THE RACE**

Competing over long distances isn't all about lung-busting marathons or Iron Mans. In the early 20th century, long-distance walking was all the rage.

The May Day Stock Exchange London to Brighton Walk was first held in 1903 – not as a charity event, but a hardcore sport. It was popular for the spectators too. Along the 60-mile route, which took over nine hours to complete, walkers could always expect a cheer from the roadside, a splash of cold water or – as competitor AJ Quinn found out in 1922 – a refreshing cuppa.









**TIME CAPSULE**  
**MAY**







SNAPSHOT

# 1977 USE THE FORCE...

A long time ago (well, 25 May 1977) in a galaxy far, far away (well, Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood), cinema history was made with the release of action-packed sci-fi flick, *Star Wars*.

In a time before lightsabers, the Force and Han Solo were household names, no one – not even director George Lucas – knew what people would make of the movie, which opened in only 32 cinemas. Lucas, worried it would be a flop, had even forgotten the release date, and only realised when he wandered past Mann's Chinese Theatre and was confronted by lines of excited people queuing down the street. *Star Wars* was an instant box-office smash and changed the face of science-fiction cinema forever.

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## “I READ THE NEWS TODAY...”

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **May**



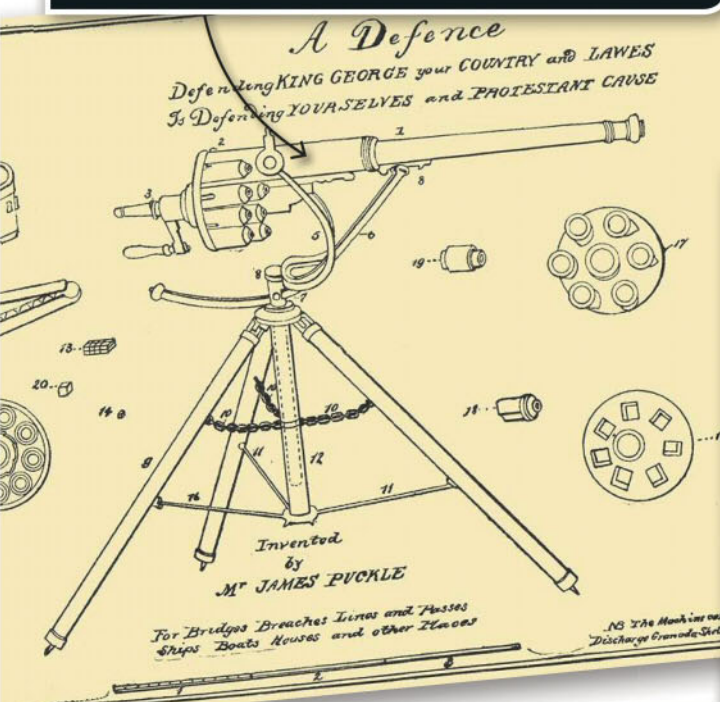
### BEATING DEATH BY A NOSE 1936 RESURRECTED RIDER RACES ON

Spectators at a California racecourse were left shocked when jockey Ralph Neves was **crushed by his own horse**, Fannikins, after she tripped. The teenager was rushed to hospital but pronounced dead. There was even time to wheel him to the morgue and tag his toe. **Neves then woke up**. What's more, he wanted to go back to the track and finish his day's racing, a request denied by his stunned doctor. The *San Francisco Examiner's* headline read, “Neves, called dead in fall, denies it”.

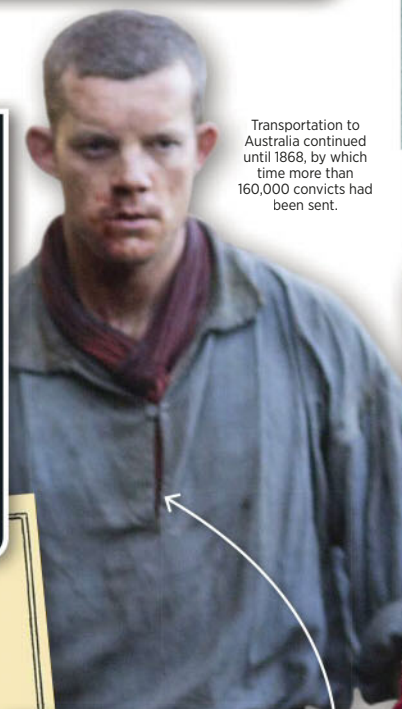
### GUNNING FOR GLORY

## 1718 THE CHANGING SHAPE OF WEAPONRY

Well over a century before the Gatling gun, British lawyer James Puckle demonstrated his own **proto-machine gun**. The Puckle Gun, a single-barreled flintlock with revolving cylinders, could fire **nine shots a minute** – the average soldier managed three. Its unreliability meant Puckle's weapon was never mass produced, but it had another quirk that put off potential investors. Puckle designed two models, one to fire conventional round bullets and another built for square bullets to be used only against Muslim Turks. According to the patent, **square bullets** would teach them the “benefits of Christian civilisation”.



Transportation to Australia continued until 1868, by which time more than 160,000 convicts had been sent.



### DOWN UNDER AND OUT

## 1787 CONVICTS SAIL FOR ‘PARADISE’ PRISON

On 13 May 1787, a fleet of 11 ships sailed from Britain to establish a **penal colony in Australia**, the first European settlement there. The First Fleet, carrying over 700 convicts, arrived at Botany Bay nearly a year later but found it entirely unsuitable for a colony – far from the paradise described by James Cook.

They therefore set about building the colony (the basis of the BBC drama *Banished*) down the coast at Port Jackson, but were hampered by **food shortages and illness**. The colonists and convicts had to eagerly await the arrival of the Second Fleet, and its supplies, in 1790. A **disastrous journey**, however, meant the situation only got worse when the fleet arrived in 1790, bringing with it more sick and dying convicts.



### BASKET CASES

If you think the farcical gas-balloon duel sounds like a scene from a movie, you're right. A similarly farcical duel is fought in the 1965 film, *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*.







## THE BALLOON GOES UP 1808 REACH FOR THE SKY!

After Messrs de Grandpre and de Pique quarrelled over a woman, a normal duel was deemed inadequate. Instead, the two Frenchmen chose to **duel from gas balloons**. On 3 May 1808, they climbed aboard identical balloons and rose to 800 metres above Paris, each planning to shoot down their adversary with a blunderbuss. The challenge was too much for de Pique who missed with his shot, despite the large target and heavy-duty weapon. When de Grandpre fired, his aim was more accurate, and de Pique – along with the unfortunate man he took as his second – **plummeted back to Earth**.

## THE REAL RED WEDDING

### AD 794 LOVE CAN MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR HEAD

When the King of East Anglia, Æthelberht, **arranged a marriage** with Offa of Mercia's daughter, he hoped this would be the start of a strong alliance between the two Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. In AD 794, Æthelberht set out to visit Mercia, and his bride-to-be, only for Offa to betray him and **order him to be beheaded**. He may have picked allies poorly, but Æthelberht was later declared a saint when his head was supposedly found in a ditch and restored a blind man's sight.



## TOP SECRET MEMO REVEALED 1944 D-DAY FEARS

Extraordinary new evidence has revealed that three weeks before D-Day, the attack's codenames were changed. What we know as Operation Overlord – the Allied landings at Normandy – became **'Hornpipe'**, while D-Day itself was referred to as **'Halcyon'**, and a 24-hour delay of the operation was codenamed **'Ripcord'**. The changes, made in a top-secret memo sent 19 May 1944 (18 days before the landings), were due to fears the original codenames were leaked in a newspaper crossword. World War II experts were amazed when the memo **featured on The Antiques Roadshow** in late 2014, after being discovered by the son of a former British officer.

19 May 1944:  
"HORNPIPE"  
"HALCYON"  
"RIPCORDER"

## "...OH BOY"

**May events that  
changed the world**

**11 MAY AD 868**

### DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

The Diamond Sutra – now the oldest dated printed book in the world – is made using woodblock printing.

**8 MAY 1429**

### SAINT SMASHES SIEGE

Joan of Arc wins her first major victory when the siege of Orléans is lifted.

**31 MAY 1669**

### DEAR DIARY, FINAL ENTRY

Due to failing eyesight, Samuel Pepys writes the last entry in his famous diary.

**1 MAY 1707**

### KINGDOM UNITED

The Acts of Union take effect, creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

**3 MAY 1814**

### VIVE LE ROI!

King Louis XVIII is met by cheering crowds in Paris, following the restoration of the French monarchy.

**22 MAY 1906**

### ON THE WRIGHT PATH

Having developed on their earlier inventions, the Wright Brothers are granted a patent for a "flying machine".

**16 MAY 1929**

### "I WANT TO THANK..."

*Wings* wins the award for Outstanding Picture at the first Academy Awards.

## AND FINALLY...

On 1 May 1840, the Penny Black – featuring a profile of Queen Victoria – seals its place in the history books as the **world's first postage stamp** when it is issued in Britain.



The chandelier's size was criticised before the accident, but its designer Charles Garnier retorted: "What else could fill the theatre with such joyous life?"

## HELLE AT THE OPERA

### 1896 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA STRIKES?

It was during a performance at the Palais Garnier, the lavish Parisian opera house, that a **■**aster struck on 20 May 1896, not on stage, but above the audience. The **seven-ton chandelier** – which was so big that

it obstructed the view for those in the fourth level – broke free of its supports and crashed to the ground, **killing one person** and injuring several others. Ironically, the opera being performed that night

**■**as titled *Helle*. The tragedy made headlines and went on to inspire a **■**ene in Gaston Leroux's classic novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*.







**Daily Mirror**

44. Saturday, May 7, 1966

No. 19,399

*'Calculated, cruel murders,' says judge*

# BRADY AND HINDLEY GO TO JAIL FOR LIFE

By MIRROR REPORTERS

**PARTNERS** in murder Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were both jailed for life at the end of the Bodies on the Moors trial yesterday.

Brady, 28, was found guilty of three murders—which meant three life sentences. Hindley, 23, was convicted of two murders—which brought her two life sentences.

A Home Office spokesman said last night: "A person sentenced to life imprisonment is liable to be detained for the whole of his or her natural life."

"But the Home Secretary has powers to release such a person on licence."

The all-male jury at Chester Assizes brought in these verdicts after a retirement of two hours, fourteen minutes.

**BRADY:** Guilty of the murders of 17-year-old Edward Evans, ten-year-old Lesley Ann Downey and 12-year-old John Kilbride.

**HINDLEY:** Guilty of the murders of Edward Evans and Lesley Ann Downey, but not guilty of the Kilbride murder. She was found guilty of harbouring Brady knowing he had murdered

John Kilbride. Edward Evans was found dead at the couple's home in Wardle, Brook-avenue, Hattersley, Hyde, Cheshire. Lesley Ann Downey and John Kilbride were found in moorland graves after they had vanished.

## Impassive

After the jury's verdicts, the judge, Mr. Justice Frelton Atkinson, said to Brady: "Ian Brady, these were three calculated, cruel, cold-blooded murders."

He added: "In your case, I pass the only sentence which the law now allows, which is three concurrent sentences of life imprisonment."

Brady, impassive, then left the dock... leaving Myra Hindley to hear her sentence.

The judge said to her: "In your case, Hindley, you have been found guilty by the jury of two equally horrible murders and, in the third, as an accessory after the fact of murder."

## Boos

"On the two murders, the sentence is two concurrent sentences of life imprisonment. On the accessory charge, a concurrent sentence of seven years' imprisonment."

As she was sentenced, Hindley swayed forward and looked down. Then she left the dock.

Later, Brady and Hindley were escorted from the court building to a police van. As the van swung out from the Chester Castle courtyard, a crowd of about 250 people pressed forward and there were boos and cheers.

The van took the couple to a remand centre. Today they will be taken to the prisons in which they will serve their sentences.

The Final Hour—See Page 9.

## Watery beer upsets an MP

**A** MP hit out last night against brewers who, he claimed, were steadily "watering down" their beer.

Mr. Geoffrey Rhodes, Labour MP for Newcastle East, told the Commons that tests on many beers showed a big fall in the "original gravity"—the measure of a beer's strength—over recent years.

Brewers are making bigger profits as a result, said Mr. Rhodes, who does not drink beer. He suggested that a beer's strength should be shown on the container.

## Promise

Agriculture Minister Fred Peart promised that beer strength would be considered when the whole question of food labelling was reviewed.

A spokesman for the Brewers' Society said last night: "The quality of beer does not rest on its potency. If you judge a drink on that, then methylated spirits would be the best drink on the market."

He added that the average beer was now nearly 10 per cent stronger than it was twenty years ago.



**IAN BRADY**

Three concurrent sentences of life imprisonment for what the judge called "three calculated, cruel, cold-blooded murders."



**MYRA HINDLEY**

Two concurrent sentences of life imprisonment for what the judge called "two equally horrible murders" ... and seven years as an accessory.

## PORTRAIT OF A KILLER

The haunting and iconic police photo of Myra Hindley, England's first convicted female serial killer, has been oft-described as a symbol of pure evil.



## YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **7 May 1966**, the faces of the Moors Murderers stare out from every paper

# “TWO SADISTIC KILLERS OF THE UTMOST DEPRAVITY”

**W**hen the judge at Ian Brady and Myra Hindley's trial passed sentence, he described the 'Moors Murderers' as “two sadistic killers of the utmost depravity”.

Yet, the full scale of their horrific, twisted crimes from 1963–65 was unknown even then. Their victims were John Kilbride, 12, and Lesley Ann Downey, ten, who were kidnapped, assaulted and killed – their bodies were then buried on Saddleworth Moor in the Pennines, hence the murderers' moniker – and 17-year-old Edward Evans who was bludgeoned with an axe in Brady's Manchester home. The latter crime, on 6 October 1965, was witnessed by Hindley's brother-in-law, who reported it to the police and set the ball rolling on an extensive investigation. Brady and Hindley were handed five life sentences (the death penalty had been abolished while the pair were in remand).

In 1987, however, police suspicions were confirmed when Brady confessed to two further murders. Pauline Reade, Hindley's 16-year-old neighbour, became their first victim after Brady declared that he wanted to “commit his perfect murder”. Her remains were discovered following over 100 days of searching, which included the murderers themselves being taken to the moor to assist.

Keith Bennett, 12, vanished in June 1964 on his way to his grandmother's house. It is thought his body is also on the moor, but has never been found despite continued searches.

The criminally insane Brady remains confined and when Hindley – described by some as the “most evil woman in Britain” – died in 2002, dozens of undertakers refused to be involved in her cremation. ☹

### VITAL CLUES

Photos were found of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley posing on Saddleworth Moor, helping the police to **identify the exact locations** where the victims were buried.



### ROAMING THE MOORS

**LEFT:** The rugged terrain of Saddleworth Moor made police searches difficult  
**BELOW:** The bodies of two victims were found thanks to the extensive operation, which involved 150 officers



## 1966 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**4 MAY** In Turin, Italy, an agreement is signed between the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade and **car company Fiat** providing for the construction of a factory in the Soviet Union.

**16 MAY** Baptist Minister and Civil Rights leader **Martin Luther King** makes his first public address concerning his ardent opposition to the United States' military intervention in Vietnam.

**17 MAY** Near the end of his concert in Manchester, **Bob Dylan is booed by the audience** for using an electric guitar – before the now-famous incident when one irate heckler shouts out “Judas!”





## GRAPHIC HISTORY

Record breakers of track and field

# 1954 A MILE IN FOUR MINUTES

On 6 May 1954, a junior doctor smashed a running milestone - the four-minute mile. He is just one athletic record breaker who proves that dedication's all you need...



**ROGER'S IMPOSSIBLE MILE**  
Dr Bannister set his awesome world record (WR) - a mile in **3:59.4 minutes** - in Oxford on 6 May 1954, in dank weather conditions. In doing so, the Brit crossed the four-minute threshold, which many **experts believed to be impossible**, stretching our knowledge of the human body's limits, and inspiring countless other athletes.

## 100 YEARS OF 100M

Chipping away at the milliseconds for a century, this selection of record breakers will be remembered as the fastest men on the planet...





# 150,000

THE CAPACITY OF THE **LARGEST ATHLETICS STADIUM** IN THE WORLD - THE RUNGRADO 1ST OF MAY STADIUM IN PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA WAS **BUILT IN 1989**.

**RECORD** Sprinting  
**WHEN** 1988

US athlete Florence Griffith-Joyner ran a new **100m WR of 10.49** seconds at the US Olympic Trials. She also set a **200m WR of 21.34** seconds in the same year. Both still stand.

**RECORD** Shot put  
**WHEN** 1953-59

After developing the 180°-turn, Parry O'Brien of the US **broke the shot put WR 16 times** between 1953-59, and was the first to throw over 19m. His PB was 19.69m.

**RECORD** Javelin  
**WHERE** Potsdam, East Germany  
**WHEN** 1988

The **80m mark** was a big deal in **women's javelin**. Petra Felke of East Germany reached it in 1988, the last of four WRs.

**RECORD** Decathlon  
**WHERE** Götzis Hypo-Meeting, Austria  
**WHEN** 2001

Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic was the **first to top 9,000 points**. At the 2012 Olympics, 8,869 points secured gold.

**RECORD** Long jump  
**WHERE** Mexico City Olympics  
**WHEN** 1968

US athlete Bob Beamon's leap of 8.90m smashed the **old WR by 55cm**, and stood for 23 years.

**RECORD** Triple jump  
**WHERE** Gothenburg, World Championships  
**WHEN** 1995

Brit Jonathan Edwards was the **first to clear 18m** and his WR of 18.29 still stands (today's top triplers reach around 17.9m).

# 12

# 32

THE **NUMBER OF YEARS** SINCE CZECH RUNNER JARMILA KRATOCHVÍLOVÁ SET THE WOMEN'S 800M WR OF 1:53.28. IT'S THE **LONGEST STANDING** TRACK-AND-FIELD RECORD.



THE **NUMBER OF OLYMPIC MEDALS** WON BY MALE FINNISH ATHLETE, PAAVO NURMI, BETWEEN 1920-28. IT REMAINS THE **MOST MEDALS WON** IN THE FIELD OF ATHLETICS. HE ALSO ESTABLISHED **25 OFFICIAL RECORDS**, FROM 1,500M TO 20,000M.



## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Edward Jenner revolutionised the world of medicine when he administered the first-ever vaccination

# 1796 JENNER'S MEDICAL MARVEL SIGNALS THE END OF MASS-KILLER DISEASE

*It is impossible to say just how many lives have been saved from the dreaded smallpox in the two centuries since a country doctor first performed a revolutionary procedure...*

**F**rom ancient times, the smallpox disease ravaged the globe, affecting all civilisations and walks of life. With a devastating mortality rate and no effective cure, millions died every year, and those who survived were left disfigured by deep scars – hence smallpox's other name, 'speckled monster'. It was a terribly successful killer, and might still be, were it not for English physician and surgeon Edward Jenner.

### "DON'T THINK, TRY"

During the 18th century, the traditional smallpox inoculation, 'variolation', was hazardous as it involved infecting a healthy person with a mild form of the disease in the hope of heightening immunity. Jenner – who, as a schoolboy, suffered a harrowing experience when he was variolated – strove to find a safer barrier against smallpox. From his medical practice in the town of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, he set about his research, no doubt with the advice of his mentor, John Hunter, echoing in his ears: "Don't think, try".

He noticed that local milkmaids suffering from cowpox, a far-less harmful affliction contracted from cattle, seemed immune to

smallpox. Encouraged, Jenner wanted to test whether cowpox could be used to save lives, and there was only one way to find out. On 14 May 1796, Jenner took the pus from the lesions of a cowpox patient, milkmaid Sarah Nelmes, and transferred it to his gardener's eight-year-old son, James Phipps.

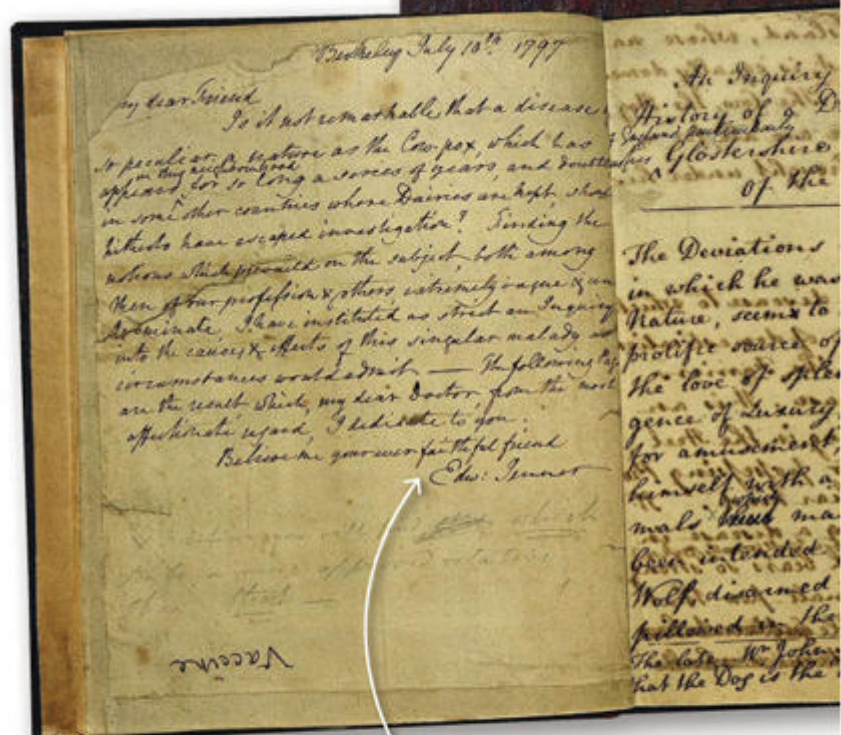
The boy fell ill over the next nine days but he fully recovered. Jenner then took the risky step of infecting Phipps with a mild dose of smallpox to test his 'vaccination' – named after *vacca*, the Latin for cow. To Jenner's delight, no smallpox developed and the vaccine was an overwhelming success.

### KILLING A KILLER

Jenner's vaccine spread, quickly replacing variolation, earning him acclaim from across the world – especially after 1803, when a special expedition sailed to the Americas to vaccinate thousands. The tide had turned – smallpox was conquerable. The work to rid the Earth of one of its worst and most widely spread diseases would take decades but, in 1980, the World Health Organisation finally announced its total eradication with the words "Smallpox is dead!" ☑

### BIG FINDINGS ON SMALLPOX

BELOW: Jenner published his research to help others vaccinate against smallpox  
BELOW RIGHT: Lancets – used to cut the skin – that belonged to Edward Jenner



### PROVING HIMSELF

Jenner carried out at least **ten further experiments** after James Phipps, as the Royal Society dismissed his initial findings on the grounds of not having enough evidence.



### A LIFE'S WORK

Jenner dedicated the rest of his life to furthering the use of his vaccine. He neglected his medical practice so much that he was granted **£30,000** by Parliament to recoup his losses.

### COW ABOUT THAT?

The cowpox taken from milkmaid Sarah Nelmes was contracted from a **cow called Blossom**. The cow's hide now hangs at St George's Hospital Medical School, London.

### SPECKLED MONSTER

Jenner vaccinates young James Phipps in 1796, making a medical breakthrough that will change the world

**“The annihilation of the Small Pox, the most dreadful scourge of the human species, must be the final result”**

*Edward Jenner, writing in a pamphlet about vaccination in 1801*



## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Kaspar Hauser's mysterious life and death

### LETTER OF THE LIE

A note, supposedly written by his attacker, had **spelling and grammatical mistakes**, which Hauser was known to make. The note was also folded in a particular way – a way typical to Hauser.

# 1828 THE STRANGE APPEARANCE OF KASPAR HAUSER

*How an unknown teenager lied his way to become Europe's hottest celebrity...*

**K**aspar Hauser first appeared on 26 May 1828. The bewildered and anxious teenager was seen staggering the streets of Nuremberg, Germany, wearing ragged clothes and grasping an envelope in his hand. Attempts by the authorities to get details from him only raised questions, as the boy said and comprehended little, although he did identify himself as Kaspar Hauser.

The envelope, containing two letters, was also unhelpful. The first was unsigned but purportedly written by a farm labourer who raised the boy ever since his mother had left him as an infant. It was addressed to the captain of a local cavalry regiment – Hauser, the missive claimed, wanted to be a cavalryman “as his father was”. The second letter was from the boy’s mother. Apparently, she left the note with the labourer, as it was dated 1812. It gave Hauser’s birth as 30 April of that year and named his father as a cavalryman, now dead.

In the care of the police, Hauser acted strangely. He struggled to

answer questions without crying and wouldn’t eat the food offered to him, preferring bread and water instead.

### CELEBRITY SENSATION

Over the next few weeks, while being looked after by one of the jailers, Hauser made a remarkable recovery. He learned to read and write at surprising speed and revealed details about his former life. He had, he said, been confined in a tiny, dark room with only a straw bed for comfort. For as long as he could remember, he never saw his captor – was he this mysterious labourer? – and bread and water would be left next to his bed every morning. Hauser also claimed that he was drugged every now and again and when he woke up, his hair and nails had been cut.

It didn’t take long for this strange case of Hauser’s to pique people’s interests. In fact, it did more than that: it caused a sensation across Europe. Hauser’s name was constantly in the papers, alongside speculation and rumours over his true origins.



**LYING IN WAIT**  
Hauser claimed that a mystery man stabbed him – but it may have been a fabrication

One such theory, now debunked, wondered if he had royal blood – a real-life version of *The Man in the Iron Mask*. For his part, Hauser was greatly enjoying his celebrity status. The year after he was found, he published an autobiography, describing his years in his cell.

### IMPOSTER REVEALED

There were, however, some who saw Hauser as an imposter, and holes were appearing in his tales. Firstly, his body was in suspiciously good shape for someone who spent his life in the dark. The handwriting on the letters looked very similar too.

Then, there were three incidents that have led many to believe Hauser was a pathological liar, or suffering a mental condition.

On 17 October 1829, Hauser was found in the cellar of his guardian’s home with a cut to his forehead. His story that he had been attacked was hard to swallow as he was unable to describe his attacker and there was a trail of blood that suggested he left the cellar – maybe to get rid of the razor he used to cut his own head – and return there before seeking help. Then, in April 1830, a gun shot was heard from Hauser’s room. When people rushed in, he was found

**“Here lies Kaspar Hauser, riddle of his time. His birth was unknown, his death mysterious.”**

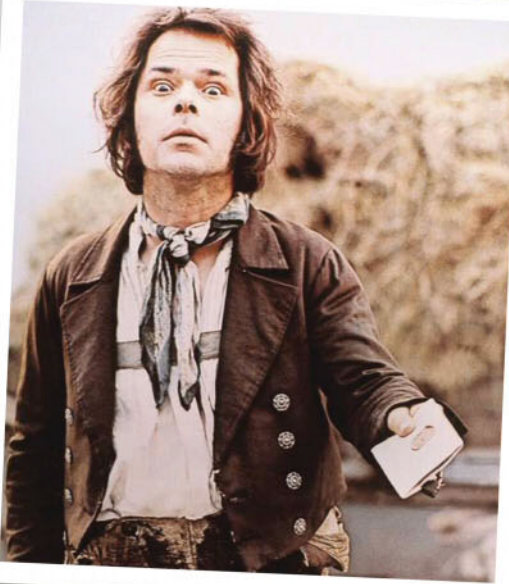
*The words on Kaspar Hauser’s headstone, written in Latin, Hauser died in 1833, supposedly after being stabbed*



## THE REAL KASPAR HAUSER?

MAIN: A 19th-century engraving of Kaspar

LEFT: Bruno S in Werner Herzog's *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* (1974)



once again with a superficial cut to his head. He claimed he climbed on a chair to retrieve some books, fell and accidentally knocked a pistol off the wall, which fired and grazed him. The third incident, however, had far more dire consequences.

### FINAL FIB

As his fame waned and he alienated every guardian he had – including the British noble Lord Stanhope – Hauser's final gambit was desperate. On 14 December 1833, he arrived home with a severe wound in his chest and another story of an attack by an unknown man who stabbed him in a public garden. A spurious note apparently from the attacker was found at the scene, although there was only one set of footprints in the snow. Again, did Hauser stab himself for attention? If so, he was a little too zealous with the deed as he died of his knife wound a few days later.

So much of the life and death of Kaspar Hauser are now generally thought to be elaborate fabrications, created in his own mind. But why he did what he did will always be the mystery. ○



Why did Kaspar Hauser's story capture so many people's imaginations?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



### HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE

While people were inclined to believe Hauser's story at first, many turned on him. One of his own patrons wrote that Hauser was "A **smart scheming codger**, a rogue, a good-for-nothing that ought to be killed".



# HISTORY

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## THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF OF BRITAIN

### ONE OF THE FEW

This artist's impression shows RAF ace Sergeant Ronald Fairfax Hamlyn in his Supermarine Spitfire

#### ACE IN A DAY

On just one day in August 1940, Sergeant Hamlyn shot down **five enemy aircraft** on three separate missions. The phenomenal feat earned him ace-in-a-day status, along with a **Distinguished Flying Medal**.



#### BOMBER COMMAND

While Fighter Command was getting the glory, **British bombers** launched **costly offensives** in Europe, including attacks on the Nazi invasion barges, which were gathering at Boulogne, France.

“NEVER IN THE FIELD  
OF HUMAN CONFLICT, WAS  
SO MUCH OWED, BY SO  
MANY, TO SO FEW.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL 20 AUGUST 1940





# BATTLE OF BRITAIN

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

**B**y the end of June 1940, the forces of Nazi Germany and its allies dominated Western Europe. That July, the German leader, Adolf Hitler, turned his attention to Britain which, despite the hopeless military situation it was in, had refused to surrender.

Hitler aimed to force Britain to submit by bombing, naval blockade or,

if necessary, invasion. But to achieve this, he needed air supremacy. So, in the summer and autumn of 1940, a few thousand airmen waged a dogged battle in the skies over Britain. Next to the later conflicts of World War II, it was a tiny affair. But the stakes were huge – resting on the result was the survival of Britain and the outcome of the entire war.

## NOW READ ON...

### NEED TO KNOW

- 1 Scene of War [p32](#)
- 2 On the Defence [p34](#)
- 3 Tracking Power [p35](#)
- 4 Fighters with the Force [p36](#)
- 5 Masters of the Sky [p38](#)

### TIMELINE

Key moments in the fight over Britain [p42](#)

### BRITAIN'S FINEST HOUR?

One pivotal day in the Battle [p45](#)

### GET HOOKED

Your Battle of Britain journey needn't end here [p51](#)







# SCENE OF WAR

*Across the world, the stage was set for battle – and Britain was in the limelight*

**W**ithin a few hours of each other, on 3 September 1939, Britain and France declared war against Nazi Germany following its invasion of Poland. With the exception of a brief French incursion into Germany, a few notable naval actions and some small-scale bombing raids, the opening months of the conflict were remarkably quiet. As such, the period gained the nickname 'the Phoney War'. In the spring of 1940, all that changed.

In April, the Germans began their conquest of Norway and then, on 10 May, they invaded France and Belgium. Bypassing the heavily fortified Maginot Line, which ran along the Franco-German border, and employing fast-moving *Blitzkrieg* ('lightning war') tactics they swept through the Ardennes before turning

for the coast, cutting off hundreds of thousands of French and British soldiers at Dunkirk. Operation Dynamo, the Allied evacuation from those beaches, brought over 300,000 of them back to England. But France had been knocked out of the war, and the British had been forced to leave most of their equipment behind. Hitler expected the British to come to terms but Winston Churchill – the new British Prime

Minister – was having none of it. Scorning surrender, he demonstrated to the world (and to the US in particular) Britain's ruthless determination to fight on by attacking the fleet of its former ally, France, to prevent it from falling into German hands.

Faced with what he saw as stubborn intransigence on the part of Britain, Hitler planned to force its surrender by bombing, naval blockade or, as a last resort, invasion. But to do this he needed to gain mastery of the skies over Britain, which meant knocking out the Royal Air Force (RAF). Only then could a large-enough bombing campaign be mounted to force the British to the negotiating table, or an invasion force have any chance of crossing the English Channel in the face of the powerful Royal Navy.

But the RAF was a tough nut to crack. It may have been outnumbered, but it had some highly effective fighter planes, the industrial means to replace them and an excellent command and control system. The Germans mounted raid after raid that summer but, by mid-September, the RAF was

**330,000**

The number of British and French troops successfully evacuated from Dunkirk

## DINKY BOATS

A **flotilla of little ships** was mustered to support the Royal Navy in its **rescue** of Allied troops from Dunkirk.

## RESCUE RAFTS

Churchill pledged that the dramatic rescue of stranded Allied troops from Dunkirk would not signal defeat

## THE MEN AT THE TOP KEY PLAYERS



### AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR HUGH DOWDING

The Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command, Dowding modernised Britain's aerial defences, encouraged the design of modern fighter planes and supported the development of radar.



### REICHSMARSCHALL HERMANN GÖRING

A WWI flying ace who took over the fighter wing once led by the 'Red Baron', Göring was Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe during the Battle. In 1946, he committed suicide before he was due to be executed for war crimes.

as effective as ever and the German invasion plans were permanently shelved.

Britain's decision to fight on, and the ability of the Royal Navy and the RAF to back up that decision, was to have huge consequences. When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Britain was able to send arms and supplies to its new ally. And when the US entered the war in December, Britain became a base from which the fight could be taken to Germany, firstly through the bomber offensive and, later, as the springboard for the invasion and liberation of western Europe.







### AIR VICE-MARSHAL KEITH PARK

A flying ace in WWI, New Zealand-born Park commanded the Number 11 Fighter Group - responsible for the defence of London and the South East, and bore the brunt of the fighting.



### GENERALFELDMARSCHALL HUGO SPERRLE

Sperrle was commander of Luftflotte III, which was heavily engaged during the Battle. He had previously commanded the German Condor Legion, which flew on the side of the Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War.



**OFF TO THE COUNTRY**  
Children were evacuated from London as early as September 1939

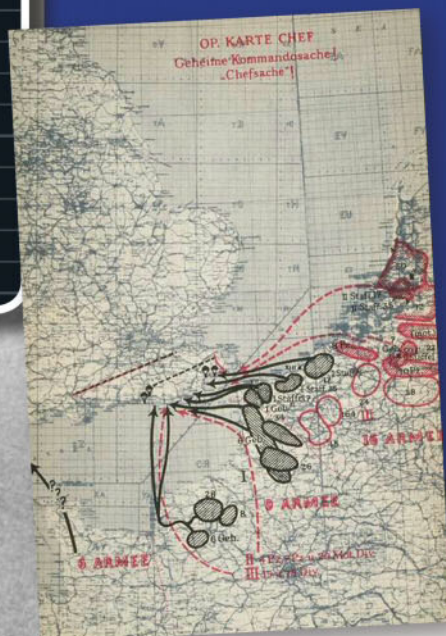
## OPERATION SEALION BRITISH INVASION

In July 1940, Hitler ordered plans to be put in place for a seaborne invasion of Britain, which was given the code name *Seelöwe* or 'Sealion'. The invasion plan was seen very much as a last resort. Hitler hoped that through blockade, bombing and the threat of an invasion, he could break the British will to fight.

Had Sealion actually gone ahead, it would have been an incredibly risky undertaking. For a start, a long spell of calm weather was needed for the fragile invasion barges to cross the

Channel - anything more than a mild swell and they risked being swamped. And lurking in the wings was the fearsome Royal Navy. There was a real danger that it might attack the invasion fleet as it crossed the Channel, or cut off the German ground forces once they'd landed. Only victory in the air would have given the invasion any prospect of success, but it seems highly likely that, though it may well have suffered heavy losses from bombing, mines and U-boats, the Royal Navy would have been able to intervene decisively had the invasion been attempted.

### MAPPED OUT Hitler's Operation Sealion required control of the Channel



### FAR-FETCHED FLEET

In preparation for Operation Sealion, the German Navy gathered some **2,400 invasion barges** from throughout Europe.



**BARGING IN**  
German invasion barges wait at Boulogne harbour, France

**"SINCE ENGLAND, IN SPITE OF HER HOPELESS MILITARY SITUATION, SHOWS NO SIGNS OF BEING READY TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING, I HAVE DECIDED TO PREPARE A LANDING OPERATION AGAINST ENGLAND AND, IF NECESSARY, TO CARRY IT OUT"**

ADOLF HITLER; FÜHRER DIRECTIVE 16, 16 JULY 1940





## THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF OF BRITAIN

### TOP DOG

The Messerschmitt BF 109 was one of the Luftwaffe's most successful fighter planes



### SITTING DUCKS

Stuka dive bombers were feared by ground troops, but **poor manoeuvrability** and a lack of speed meant they were **easily shot down** whatever their formation.

## THE LUFTWAFFE A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT

The German Air Force, or *Luftwaffe*, consisted of three *Luftflotten*, 'Air fleets', deployed in an arc round Britain from Normandy to Scandinavia. In all they had about 2,800 aircraft, two-thirds of which were bombers. The Luftwaffe had already defeated the air forces of Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and the RAF contingent prior to Dunkirk. Its crews were experienced and confident and its commander predicted it would only take a few days to knock out the RAF.



### WIN #32

German victories are totted up on the tail of a Messerschmitt BF 109

### TWO BY TWO

A pair of Stukas - Junkers Ju 87B dive-bombers - fly over Britain



2

## ON THE DEFENCE

*As the fight for air supremacy took off, the Luftwaffe began with superior fighter tactics*

**T**he aims of the two sides were relatively straightforward. The Germans planned to bomb key British military, industrial and, later, civilian targets, thus devastating Britain's ability and willingness to fight. They also reasoned that, as the RAF would have to respond to these attacks, its fighter force would be worn down until the numerically superior Luftwaffe enjoyed supremacy in the skies over Britain. Then, an invasion might just be possible.

There was a view at the time, coined by politician Stanley Baldwin, that "the bomber will always get through." This meant the RAF had to disrupt the enemy raids and thus at least reduce the damage they could do, while destroying as many bombers as possible without suffering crippling losses themselves. There were disagreements among high command about how to achieve these aims. Some, like Keith Park, commander of 11 Group (see page 33), wanted to intercept the bombers as soon as possible.

Others preferred the 'Big Wing' approach, where large numbers of fighters would assemble before attacking - even if this meant hitting the enemy after they had dropped their bombs. The problem was that getting large numbers of planes airborne - to the necessary altitude and organised, ready for battle - took time. There was a danger that the raiders would be long gone before the 'Big Wing' could arrive and do its stuff.

Whatever approach the British adopted, in order to get at the bombers they first had to fight their way through a protective screen of enemy fighters. And here, the Germans enjoyed a tactical advantage. The RAF had always liked close formation flying. Its three-plane V formations looked impressive, but were not very agile in

battle. The Germans, on the other hand, had learnt from their experiences in the Spanish Civil War. They replaced the V with a pair of planes - one would lead while the other acted as its wingman, watching its back. Two pairs often worked together and, until the British adjusted their own tactics, these looser formations gave the Germans an edge in close combat.

However, the Germans consistently underestimated how many planes the RAF had, and how quickly it could replace those it had lost. And, like the RAF, they usually overestimated how many planes they'd shot down. As a result, they never really had a clear picture of how the battle was going. In August, they began attacking RAF airfields, which did,

in fact, put Fighter Command under severe strain. But when, in early September, they switched their sights to British cities, they did so at just the wrong time. They believed Fighter Command was on its last legs. They were wrong. When large numbers of RAF fighters inflicted heavy losses on the raids of 15 September, it was a devastating blow to Luftwaffe morale.

1

The number of days in the Battle during which the Germans actually shot down more planes than they lost

### RATE OF INFLATION

The papers - as well as this newspaper seller - often reported inflated loss figures





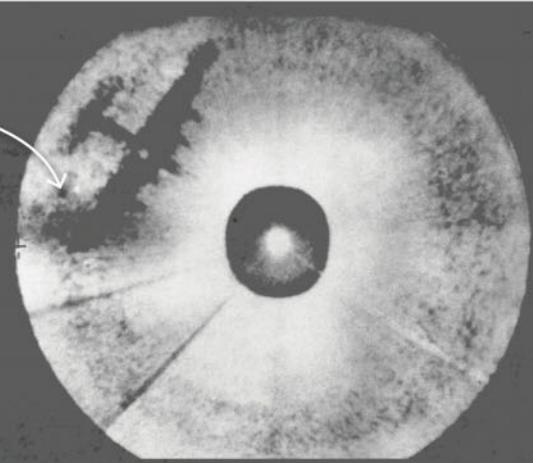
3

# TRACKING POWER

*There was one scientific development that proved pivotal to Britain's defence: radar*

## FRIEND OR FOE?

This image shows a bomber in range of a **radar beam**. A skilled operator would have analysed the silhouette and identified it as an Allied craft.



**T**he origins of Britain's radar defences are like something from science fiction. In 1934, the Air Ministry set up a committee to look at ways in which new technology could be used to improve air defences. One of the ideas put forward was for a 'death ray'. Nobody took the suggestion seriously, but Robert Watson-Watt of the National Physical Laboratory was at least asked to demonstrate that the idea wouldn't work.

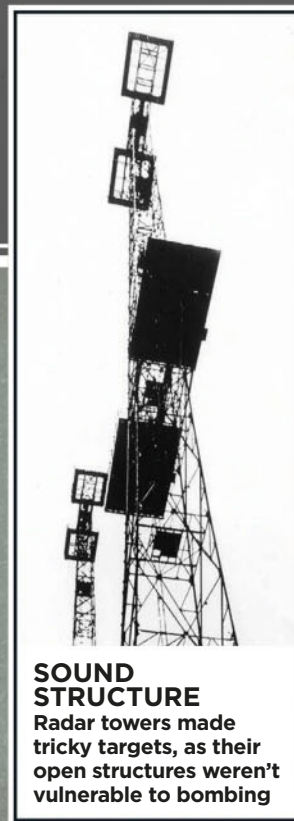
He did this without much difficulty, but it led him and his team to come up with an idea of their own. The fact that radio waves bounced off solid objects had been demonstrated by the German physicist Heinrich Hertz as early 1888, and Watson-Watt demonstrated that his radio transmitters could create a wave that could bounce off a plane over 200 miles away. At that distance, it

could give the RAF early warning of an attack. It would also allow the pilots to stay in the air longer – instead of wasting valuable fuel looking for the enemy, they could be given a much better idea of where to find them.

In 1936, work began on a chain of radar (then called RDF – Radio Direction Finding) stations along England's south and east coasts and, fortunately, they were operational by 1939.

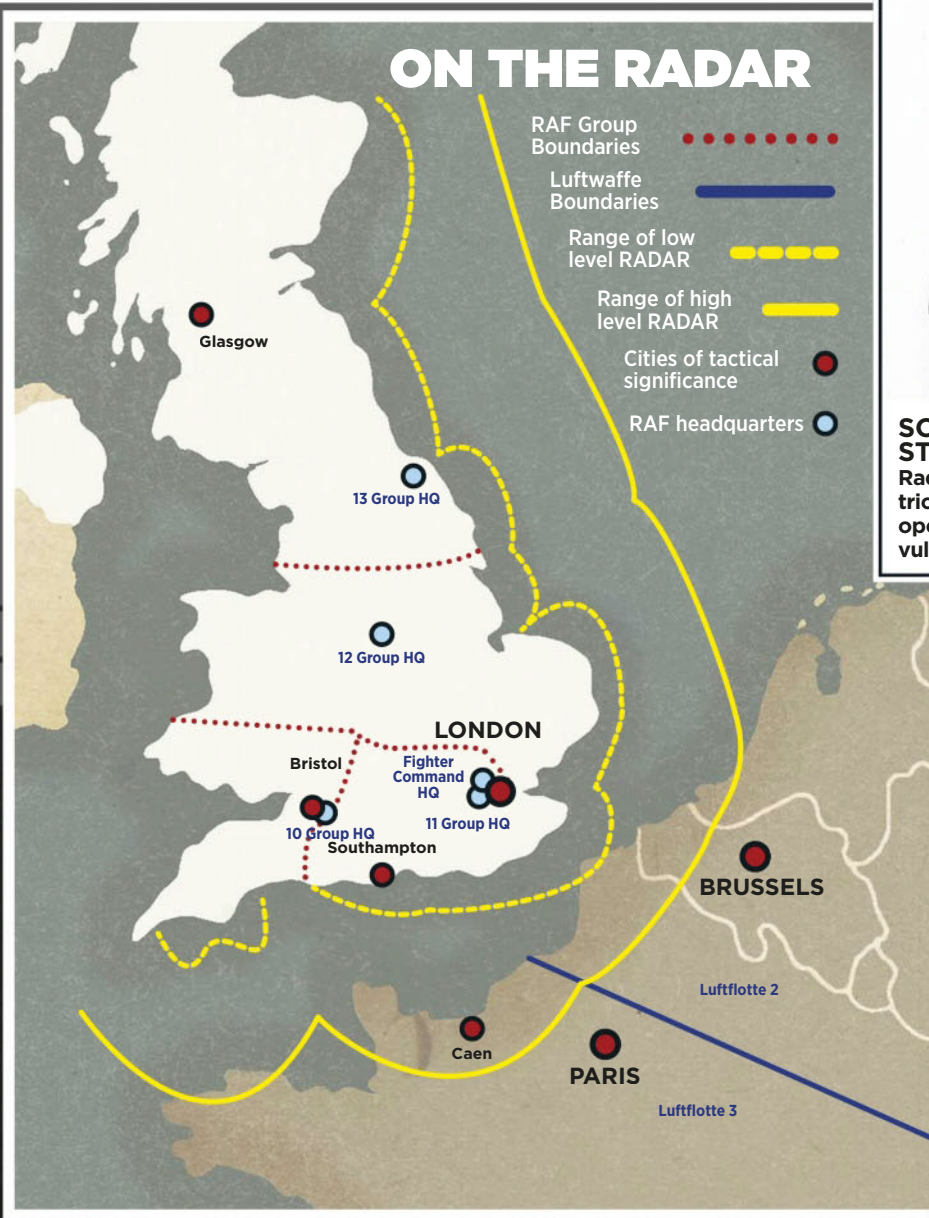
Put simply, they consisted of a tall mast that sent out a radio signal, which was reflected back by solid objects – in this case, groups of aircraft – and picked up as a blip on the screen of a cathode-ray tube (like an early TV). By carefully analysing the results, skilled operators were able to estimate how far away the aircraft were, how many there were and the direction they were heading in. Finally, by using different masts, the operators were also able to estimate the height of the aircraft. This was tricky but crucial – there was no point arriving above the spot on a map where the enemy planes should be, only to find they are 10,000 feet above you.

This information was passed to Fighter Command where, along with eye-witness reports from 30,000 volunteers of the Observer Corps, it proved crucial in helping to make an early, accurate response to any German raid. Britain wasn't alone in its use of radar – the Germans had got onto it a year before the British and were to use it with great success themselves later in the war.



**SOUND STRUCTURE**  
Radar towers made tricky targets, as their open structures weren't vulnerable to bombing

## ON THE RADAR



## FOLLOW THE SCENT

A radar operator tracks friendly and enemy aircraft





**ACE IS HIGH**

On the cockpit of his Spitfire sits **Flying Officer Leonard Haines** of No 19 Squadron. He shot down six enemy aircraft in the Battle.

**GROUND CREW**

**ALL FOR ONE**

The 'few' in the air may have done the fighting, but the 'many' on the ground played an equally important role. For every Battle of Britain pilot there were at least three ground crew. When a plane took off for a few minutes' combat, its ground crew may well have been at work on it for hours the previous night. Any battle damage had to be assessed and repaired. Faults had to be looked at by the relevant technical expert. Armourers had to equip and service the plane's machine guns – a malfunction in the air could be fatal. Finally, the plane had to be refuelled as quickly as possible, especially if a plane had landed during the day and was likely to be scrambled



**TIME TO RELOAD**

On the ground, a Spitfire's gun gets fresh ammunition

a second time. All of this has been compared to the pits of Formula One, with the difference that – unlike the teams at Monza or Monte Carlo – these ground crews were often working under the threat of enemy attack.



**FIGHTERS WITH THE FORCE**

*The RAF mustered thousands of men and women to air defence*

**T**he Royal Air Force was founded in April 1918. This was a reflection of the development of aircraft from a machine that was primarily used for reconnaissance, to a potent weapon that could be used to mount campaigns of its own. In 1936, the RAF was organised into separate Commands: Training, Control, Bomber – and Fighter.

Fighter Command was organised geographically into four 'Groups'. Air Vice-Marshal Park's 11 Group, in the South East, would bear the brunt of the fighting. Fighter Command had about 650 aircraft and 1,300 pilots at its disposal at the start of the Battle. It had suffered heavy losses during the Battle of France and its commander Hugh Dowding controversially refused Churchill's request for more squadrons to be sent there, rightly arguing that every plane was needed for the forthcoming fights over Britain.

**NO 310 SQUADRON**  
Czechoslovakian pilots and their British flight commanders



**TRAINING DAYS**  
**PILOT PREP**

British pilots generally received far less training than their German counterparts. At this time, all German aircrew had to undergo at least six months of basic training; British pilots rarely got more than a month. German aviators received up to 80 hours' training at specialist bomber or fighter schools, and took part in simulation sorties and mock battles before seeing combat. RAF pilots were lucky if they got more than about 20 hours of actual flying before they were posted to an operational unit, such as Britain's shortage of manpower.

Pilots on both sides rapidly learned that there was a world of difference between the flying they'd learned in training and flying in combat. You might have been the most elegant flier in the world but it counted for little if you couldn't shoot straight. Fighter planes normally had only enough ammunition for about ten seconds of sustained firing and often the best tactic was to get your plane as close as possible to an enemy – ideally without him seeing you – fire off a short burst of one or two seconds and then quickly move on. Such deadly encounters often lasted moments and in these circumstances strong nerves, quick reactions and good eyesight were as important as technical flying ability.



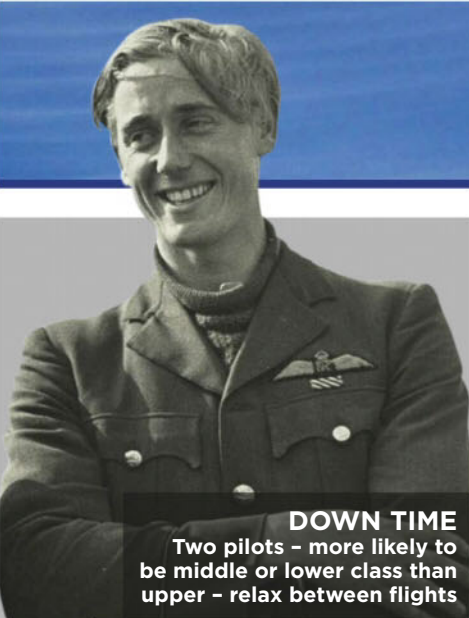
**SHARP SHOOTERS**

Luftwaffe trainees learn how to use a plane's automatic weapons



150

The number of women who flew with the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) during the war



**DOWN TIME**  
Two pilots – more likely to be middle or lower class than upper – relax between flights

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGHT YOUNG MEN SKY HEROES

RAF fighter pilots were a cosmopolitan bunch, very different to the public school 'Tally Ho' chaps they're popularly seen as. In fact, of the 3,000 or so pilots that flew at this time, less than 200 were public-school educated. The rest came from a wide variety of backgrounds – bank clerks, shop assistants and factory workers all served as fighter pilots. What they did have in common was their youth. While a few 'old sweats' were over 30, the average age of an RAF fighter pilot was just 20, and many were as young as 18. At the time, you had to be 21 to vote so many of these young men were risking their lives in defence of a democracy they were not yet old enough to participate in.

About 20 per cent of Fighter Command's aircrew came from overseas. 126 New Zealanders, 98 Canadians, 33 Australians and 25 South Africans took part in the Battle, and they were joined by volunteers from a variety of nations including neutral countries like Ireland and the US. Vital contributions were made by pilots from Nazi-occupied countries – 145 Polish, 88 Czechoslovakians, 29 Belgians, 13 Frenchmen and an Austrian flew in the Battle. Many of these were experienced fighters, often motivated by an intense hatred of the country that was oppressing their own. Although it was only operational for six weeks, the Polish No 303 Squadron shot down more German planes than any other unit.

## MANNING THE GUNS? WE CAN DO IT!

Women played a key role in the Battle of Britain. Many worked in factories building the aircraft that actually did the fighting while one out of every eight of the pilots in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), which delivered planes to stations across the country, were female. One of these was the accomplished aviatrix Amy Johnson, who died in 1941 when the aircraft she was flying crashed into the Thames estuary.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) worked alongside the RAF as drivers, clerks, telephonists, cooks and orderlies. Some served at radar stations while others famously worked as plotters in the various Fighter Command operations rooms mapping friendly and enemy aircraft positions and helping to

direct fighter planes. Many of the places they worked at were primary targets for German attacks. Over 750 WAAFs lost their lives during the war.

Meanwhile, women in the Army's Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) worked as radar operators, and joined the crews of anti-aircraft guns and searchlight units. More than 250,000 women served in the ATS during World War II, including the future Queen Elizabeth, who joined up as a Princess at the age of 19, training as a driver and mechanic.



### INSPIRATION-GAL

Amy Johnson was a superstar of her time, having completed the first solo female flight from **Britain to Australia** in May 1930.

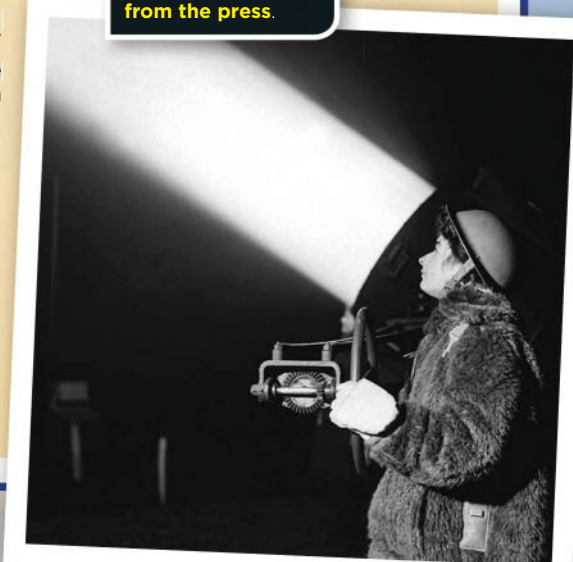


### STARS OF THE SKY

The women pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary received a lot of **attention from the press**.

### FLYING FOR VICTORY

INSET: Amy Johnson, the first ATA pilot to die in the course of her duties  
ABOVE: Women of the ATA on duty  
RIGHT: A member of the ATS scans the skies with a searchlight  
LEFT: The RAF pilots defending Britain's skies were often young and inexperienced







# MASTERS OF THE SKY

*While people were the heroes of the Battle, the aircraft became the icons*

**F**or many, the sleek and slender Spitfire (right) is the enduring symbol of the Battle of Britain. Indeed, at the time, just a glimpse of its silhouette in the sky gave hope to those below, who knew that Fighter Command were on the scene, tackling the enemy over Britain.

But the Spitfire was not the most significant plane in the RAF, and Germany's planes were formidable creations, as well. The machines' strengths and weaknesses – including Germany's superior numbers – were pitted against each other in the battle for victory.

**“A GLIMPSE OF THE SPITFIRE'S SILHOUETTE GAVE HOPE TO THOSE BELOW”**

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“Just the sort of **bloody silly** name they would choose.”

**Spitfire designer** RJ

Mitchell's verdict on the name of his new creation.



**310**

The number of Spitfires ordered by the Air Ministry in 1936, after seeing the prototype

## BOULTON PAUL DEFIANT



The Defiant had a revolving gun turret behind the pilot, who was supposed to fly alongside an enemy aircraft while the gunner opened fire. It was no match for enemy fighters in a fast-moving dogfight, and they suffered heavy losses in their first encounter with German Me 109s off Dover on 19 July.

**ROLE** Fighter

**CREW** Two

**MAX SPEED** 304mph

**RANGE** 465 miles

**ARMAMENT** Four .303in Browning machine guns

## SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE 1



Although Hurricanes were more numerous and shot down more planes, the Spitfire is the aircraft that has become synonymous with the Battle of Britain. The Spitfire was quicker than the German Me BF 109 and had a smaller turning circle, but was less effective at heights over 20,000 feet.

**ROLE** Fighter

**CREW** One

**MAX SPEED** 362mph

**RANGE** 395 miles

**ARMAMENT** Eight .303in Browning machine guns

## HAWKER HURRICANE 1



The principal British fighter in the Battle of Britain, the Hawker Hurricane was slower than the Spitfire but it was reliable and manoeuvrable. It could absorb a great deal of battle damage as well, as its frame was made of fabric and wood, which was also easy and quick to fix.

**ROLE** Fighter

**CREW** One

**MAX SPEED** 329mph

**RANGE** 505 miles

**ARMAMENT** Eight .303 Browning machine guns



## DORNIER DO 17



Nicknamed 'the flying pencil' because of its long, thin fuselage, the Dornier 17 had originally been designed as a passenger aircraft. Production had ceased in 1940 when it became clear the Junkers Ju 88 was a better plane, but large numbers were used in the Battle of Britain.

**ROLE** Bomber

**CREW** Five

**MAX SPEED** 255mph

**RANGE** 745 miles

**ARMAMENT** Four - eight 7.9mm machine guns

**BOMB LOAD** 2,200lbs (1,000kgs)

## JUNKERS JU 87



The Stuka (short for *Sturzkampfflugzeug*, or 'dive bomber') had proved devastating and terrifying against ground troops during the blitzkrieg attacks on Poland and France. However, the Battle of Britain proved it was helpless once separated from its fighter escorts and it was soon pulled out of the fighting.

**ROLE** Dive bomber

**CREW** Two

**MAX SPEED** 232mph

**RANGE** 370 miles

**ARMAMENT** Three 7.9mm machine guns

**BOMB LOAD** One 1,100lbs (500kgs) bomb under the fuselage, four 110lbs (50kgs) bombs beneath the wings

## JUNKERS JU 88



A versatile plane, the Junkers Ju 88 was well armoured on the stern and flanks but unprotected against head-on attacks. Because it had been designed to operate as a dive bomber, pilots were able to use the dive as an evasive action.

**ROLE** Bomber and dive bomber

**CREW** Four

**MAX SPEED** 286mph

**RANGE** 1,550 miles

**ARMAMENT** Six 7.9mm machine guns

**BOMB LOAD** 4,000lbs (1,800kgs)

## MESSERSCHMITT BF 110

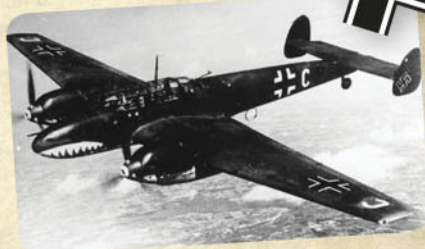
Nicknamed *Zerstörer* ('Destroyer') the Me BF 110 packed a powerful punch with its extensive weaponry. However, it suffered from a fatal lack of agility in the air and British fighters had little trouble outmanoeuvring it. Eventually it needed fighter protection of its own.

**ROLE** Fighter

**CREW** Two

**MAX SPEED** 350mph **RANGE** 530 miles

**ARMAMENT** Four 7.9mm machine guns, two 20mm cannon in nose, one rear-firing 7.9mm machine gun in cockpit



## HEINKEL HE 111

Ostensibly designed as a civil airliner, the Heinkel 111 made its combat debut during the Spanish Civil War. The machine gunner's gondola under the fuselage was a favourite target for fighters and was nicknamed 'the death bed'.

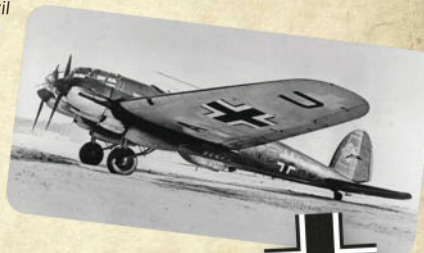
**ROLE** Bomber

**CREW** Five

**MAX SPEED** 247mph

**RANGE** 1,224 miles

**ARMAMENT** Seven 7.9mm machine guns **BOMB LOAD** 4410lbs (2,000kgs)



### KNOW THE NOSE

During the early part of the war, the noses of German fighters were painted yellow, as a simple recognition feature.

## MESSERSCHMITT BF 109E

The Me BF 109E was the principal German fighter in the early years of the war. Over 30,000 were built in nine versions. It was a formidable fighter but it was hampered by a limited operating range and the need to escort the slower bombers.

**ROLE** Fighter **CREW** One **MAX SPEED** 355mph

**RANGE** 412 miles

**ARMAMENT** Two 7.9mm machine guns, two 20mm cannon

TURN OVER TO READ ABOUT THE RAF'S TOP FIGHTER PLANE





# BRITAIN'S TOP PERFORMERS

*The humble Hurricane was the RAF's workhorse; its pilot, the reliable-yet-ruthless rider*

**T**he RAF's number one fighter during the Battle of Britain was a hybrid; the Hurricane was a mix of the old and the new. Sturdier wings and improved weapons had been added onto a biplane design, while beneath its wooden framework and fabric exterior, sat a mighty 1,030 horsepower engine, capable of 329mph.

While this plane was easy to produce, and could be churned out as quickly as they were being lost, finding trained pilots to fill the new hot seats was a much tougher task.

## EQUIPMENT AND KIT

A pilot's kit had to balance its owner's desire for comfort and flexibility with his need to stay warm while flying at high altitude.

### PARACHUTE

This life-saver was fitted with a quick-release mechanism and designed to fit into the aircraft's bucket seat when being worn.

### CONTAINER RUCKSACK

### HELMET

Made of warm leather, the helmet was fitted with radio headphones.

### OXYGEN MASK

The pilot's breathing apparatus was fitted with a microphone.

### MASK

### MICROPHONE

### LIFE JACKET

Often painted yellow to make them easier to see, these jackets were nicknamed 'Mae Wests' as, when they were inflated, the wearer bore a resemblance to the well-endowed actress.

### RELEASE MECHANISM

A buckle made it easy to quickly open the parachute.

### SERVICE DRESS

The uniform jacket and trousers were the grey-blue colour typically associated with the RAF.

### BOOTS

These 1939-pattern flying boots had vulcanised canvas uppers for added comfort and durability.

### RELEASE CORD

### SHEEPSKIN FLYING JACKET

For essential insulation when flying at high altitudes, the pilots wore a warm outer layer.

### EVERHOT BAG

Chemical heat pouches were placed inside the pilot's boots.



### ENGINE

The Rolls-Royce Merlin III engine drove a three-bladed constant-speed propeller.

### COCKPIT

The Hurricane was the first RAF monoplane with an enclosed cockpit.

## HAWKER HURRICANE

Solid, reliable and tough, the Hawker Hurricane was the first monoplane fighter to enter service with the RAF, which it did in 1937. During the Battle of Britain, Hurricanes shot down more enemy planes than all the other types of Allied aircraft combined.

### FUEL

It had two tanks for its high-octane fuel (one in each wing) and a third in reserve.

### BROWNING .303

One of the most versatile heavy machine guns ever produced.

### RAF ROUNDEL

A clear marker to identify the nationality of the aircraft.

### AMMUNITION BELT

### AIR-COOLED BARREL

### WINGS

The Hurricane's wings were sturdy and strong, but they produced more drag than those of a Spitfire or a Me BF 109.

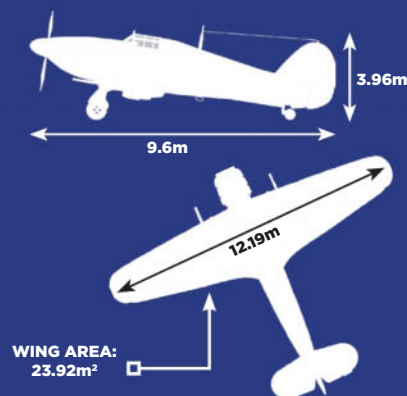
### LANDING GEAR

This aircraft was the first British fighter plane with retractable landing gear.

### TANK HUNTERS

In 1941, some Hurricanes were fitted with 40mm anti-tank guns and used as ground attack aircraft.

## VITAL STATISTICS







## THE BIG STORY THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

# TIMELINE The fight for air

With Hitler's sights set firmly on Britain, the island became the setting for an



**3 SEPTEMBER 1939**  
Following the German invasion of Poland two days earlier, Britain and France declare war on Nazi Germany.

British PM Neville Chamberlain informs the country it is at war



**10 MAY 1940**

German forces invade France and the Low Countries. Advancing through the Ardennes, they bypass the Maginot defensive line, reach the coast and cut off large numbers of British and French troops.

**4 JUNE 1940**

Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of more than 300,000 British and French troops from Dunkirk, comes to an end. Ten days later, German troops enter Paris.



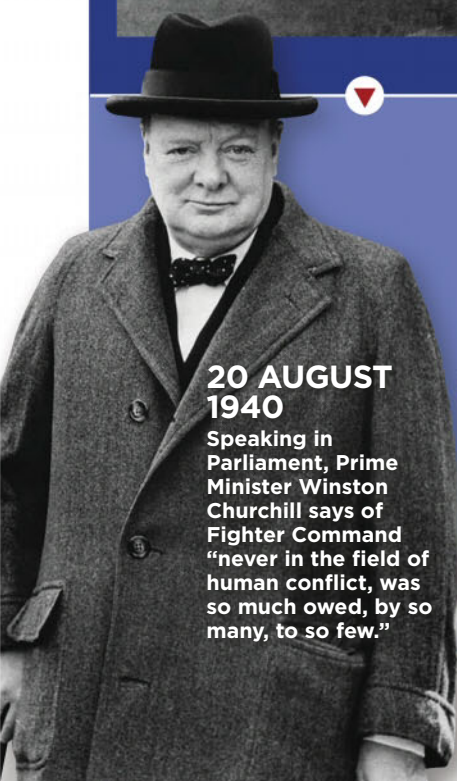

**18 AUGUST 1940**  
Massed German formations attack airfields in the South and South East. Kenley airfield, Surrey, is particularly badly damaged. So many Junkers 87 Stukas are shot down that Göring withdraws the rest from the Battle.



**15 AUGUST 1940**  
The Germans mount intensive raids on RAF bases, but lose 75 planes to the RAF's 30. The Norway-based Luftflotte 5 suffers heavy losses and plays little part in the Battle thereafter.

**13 AUGUST 1940**

Adlertag, 'Eagle Day' - the launch of the main Luftwaffe assault against the RAF. It begins with attacks on coastal airfields and radar stations. The German plan is to exhaust Fighter Command by forcing it to battle against ceaseless attacks.



**20 AUGUST 1940**  
Speaking in Parliament, Prime Minister Winston Churchill says of Fighter Command "never in the field of human conflict, was so much owed, by so many, to so few."

**31 AUGUST 1940**

Fighter Command suffers its heaviest losses to date. Debden airfield, Essex, is hit by 100 bombs, and six out of the seven main bases in the South East are damaged.

**7 SEPTEMBER 1940**

The Blitz begins, with Germany's air assaults switching to massed day and night attacks on major cities, aircraft factories and other strategic targets. However, this takes the pressure off the battered airfields.



**15 SEPTEMBER 1940**

A massive attack on London is disrupted by a determined defence from the RAF. The Germans suffer heavy losses and realise that the RAF is stronger than they had calculated, and far from finished.



**STATE**  
LONDON RED  
LONDON WHITE  
**AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES**  
Period: Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1940  
**ENEMY,**  
DESTROYED PROBABLY DAMAGED  
183 42 75  
OUR A/C Pilots Safe  
28



# supremacy

epic battle of the skies...



British ships on the south coast are targeted by German bombers

**10 JULY 1940**

The *Kanalkampf*, 'Channel war', begins. The German Luftwaffe begins to attack convoys and merchant ships in the English Channel. Because protecting them was so costly, the convoys are eventually re-routed to avoid the danger.



Basic commercial barges were adapted for use in Operation Sealion

**16 JULY 1940**

Hitler issues Führer Directive 16, ordering plans for a seaborne invasion of Britain to be drawn up. The operation will be code-named *Seelöwe* or 'Sealion'.



**LESSON IN HUMILITY**  
France's surrender is signed in the railway car that the WWI armistice was agreed in



German Heinkel He 111s soar over Britain



**1 AUGUST 1940**

Hitler issues Führer Directive 17, ordering an intensification of air attacks on Britain, in order to overpower the RAF.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD

### ELSEWHERE IN THE WAR...

On 22 June, France surrendered to Germany. It was now divided in two, with the north occupied by the Germans and the south run by a puppet government led by Marshal Petain. Two days earlier, the Italians declared war on Britain and France but their invasion of Greece and their campaign against Britain in the Western Desert would turn into a shambles; the Germans will, eventually, help them out. Meanwhile Soviet Russia occupied the Baltic States of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, and the Japanese were still locked in a war in China.

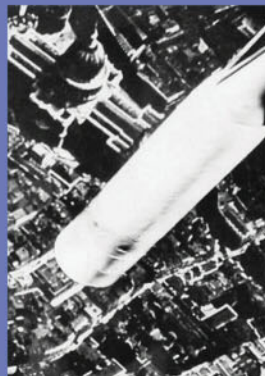
The US watched events in Europe with growing concern. While popular sympathies lay with Britain and its allies, public opinion was against joining the war. President Franklin D Roosevelt wanted to help Britain, but his country's Neutrality Acts forbade arms sales on credit or lending money to belligerent nations. However, in September he organised an agreement by which, in exchange for 50 elderly destroyers, the US was granted rent-free bases on a number of British Caribbean possessions.

**17 SEPTEMBER 1940**

With the RAF undefeated, Operation Sealion is postponed until further notice, and never takes place.

**21 SEPTEMBER 1940**

By this date, about ten per cent of the barges assembled on the Channel's French coast for the invasion of Britain have been destroyed by the RAF's bombers.



The view from above, as a bomb is dropped on the capital

**30 SEPTEMBER 1940**

The Germans stage their last major daylight raid on London. Small-scale bomber raids go on for a month, and night attacks continue until May 1941, when the Luftwaffe shifts its resources east, ready for the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union.





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**NO SIGN OF  
SURRENDER**

Censors removed anything  
that could give away  
Churchill's location from  
this newspaper photo

**THE BIG STORY  
BATTLE  
OF BRITAIN**

A large black and white photograph of Winston Churchill walking through a war-torn London street. He is wearing a dark overcoat and a bowler hat, leaning on a cane. To his left, a firefighter in full gear is spraying water from a hose. In the background, there are damaged buildings and a soldier in uniform standing at attention. Several white rectangular boxes have been placed over parts of the image, presumably to redact information about Churchill's location.

# BRITAIN'S FINEST HOUR

One day above all others is remembered  
as 'Battle of Britain Day': 15 September 1940,  
a day that began just as any other...

PRESS ASSOCIATION





## THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF BRITAIN

September the 15th didn't start well for Keith Park. Such were the strains of command that the New Zealand-born commander of the RAF's No 11 Fighter Group had completely forgotten it was his wife's birthday. Fortunately, Mrs Park was of a forgiving disposition and, having promised to give her a bag of German aircraft as a birthday present, he departed for work.

'Work' for Air Vice-Marshal Park was an underground control room at RAF Uxbridge, and it was from here that he supervised and co-ordinated the fighter defence of London and the South East against German air attacks. Mid-morning he received alarming news – the Prime Minister had decided to drop in to see how things were going. Churchill duly arrived and Park was faced with his first tricky decision

their machine guns. If everything worked and the plane was deemed ready for action, its petrol tank would then be filled with 85 gallons of high-octane fuel. The arriving pilots would take turns to grab some breakfast, either in huts near the planes or sitting in deckchairs outside a tent. Either way, the key thing was to be within sprinting distance of their aircraft.

Across the Channel things were stirring. At about 10:10, a force of around 30 German Dornier bombers took off from their bases near Beauvais, north of Paris, and flew up to Cap Gris Nez, where they were due to rendezvous with several units of fighters before making for London. The fighters took off as planned at 11:00 but valuable time (and fuel) was wasted as the groups of planes searched for each other in the clouds before crossing the Channel. All the while, this activity was being picked up by

## OPERATIONS ROOM DIRECT ACTION

This room will be familiar to anyone who has seen old war films about the RAF. Information from radar stations about aircraft approaching the coastline, and from the Royal Observer Corps about aircraft over land, was assessed and passed onto the Operations Rooms. Details about the number of aircraft, their position, height and bearings were then transferred to counters, which were positioned and moved around the map by the plotters using adjustable rods like croupiers. On the wall, a series of coloured lights indicated the state of readiness of the various squadrons in that particular sector or group.

## "THIRTY GERMAN BOMBERS TOOK OFF AND FLEW NORTH TO RENDEZVOUS WITH FIGHTERS BEFORE MAKING FOR LONDON"

of the day – how did one go about politely telling Britain's leader that the control room air-conditioning couldn't cope with cigar smoke?

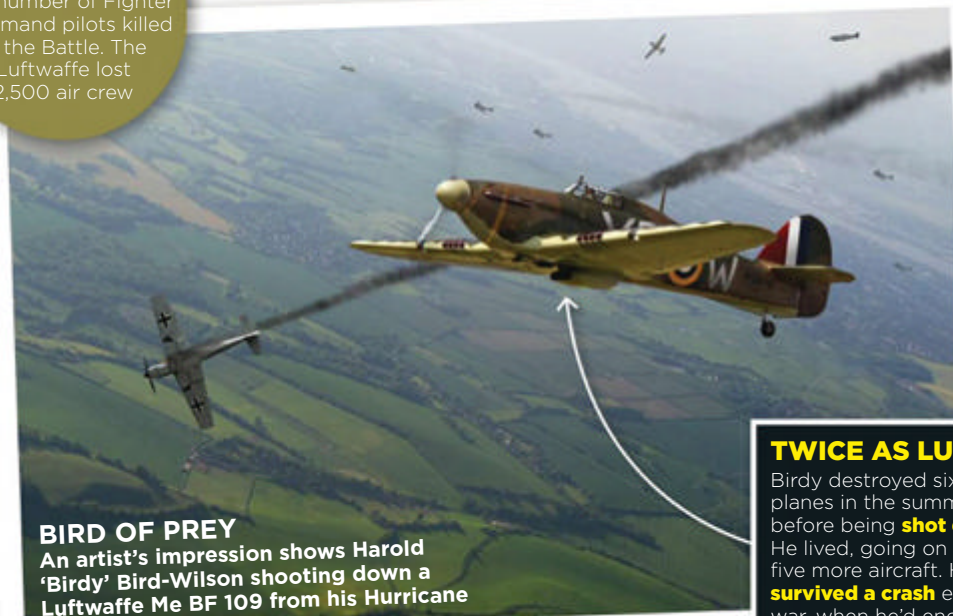
Meanwhile, at airfields across southern England, fighter pilots were awaiting the call to action. Most pilots awoke at dawn (to a cup of tea if they were officers) and waited for the lorry that would drive them out to the dispersal areas near their planes. While this was happening, ground crews would be hard at work on the planes, checking repairs, testing their engines and loading

British radar. Back at Uxbridge, and watched by Churchill, a WAAF put the first of what would be many markers on the control room map, while Park gave the order for the first two of his squadrons to scramble.

Over at Biggin Hill, the pilots of 92 Squadron were relaxing around the stove in their dispersal hut when the words "Scramble, scramble" blared out from the tannoy. As the pilots grabbed their parachutes and sprinted towards their Spitfires, members of the ground crew pressed the starter buttons on battery carts

544

The number of Fighter Command pilots killed in the Battle. The Luftwaffe lost 2,500 air crew



**BIRD OF PREY**  
An artist's impression shows Harold 'Birdy' Bird-Wilson shooting down a Luftwaffe Me BF 109 from his Hurricane

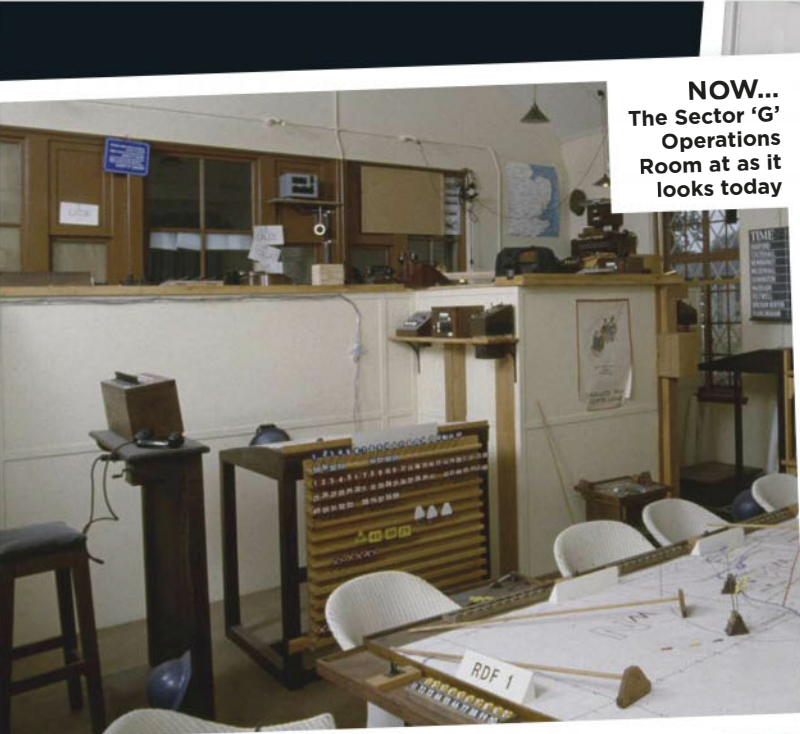
### TWICE AS LUCKY

Birdy destroyed six enemy planes in the summer of 1940, before being **shot down** himself. He lived, going on to take out five more aircraft. He had also **survived a crash** earlier in the war, when he'd ended up with Sir McIndoe (see page 49), who gave him a new nose.

### ENEMY POSITIONS

Wooden blocks were used like counters, to represent the location and size of enemy raids.



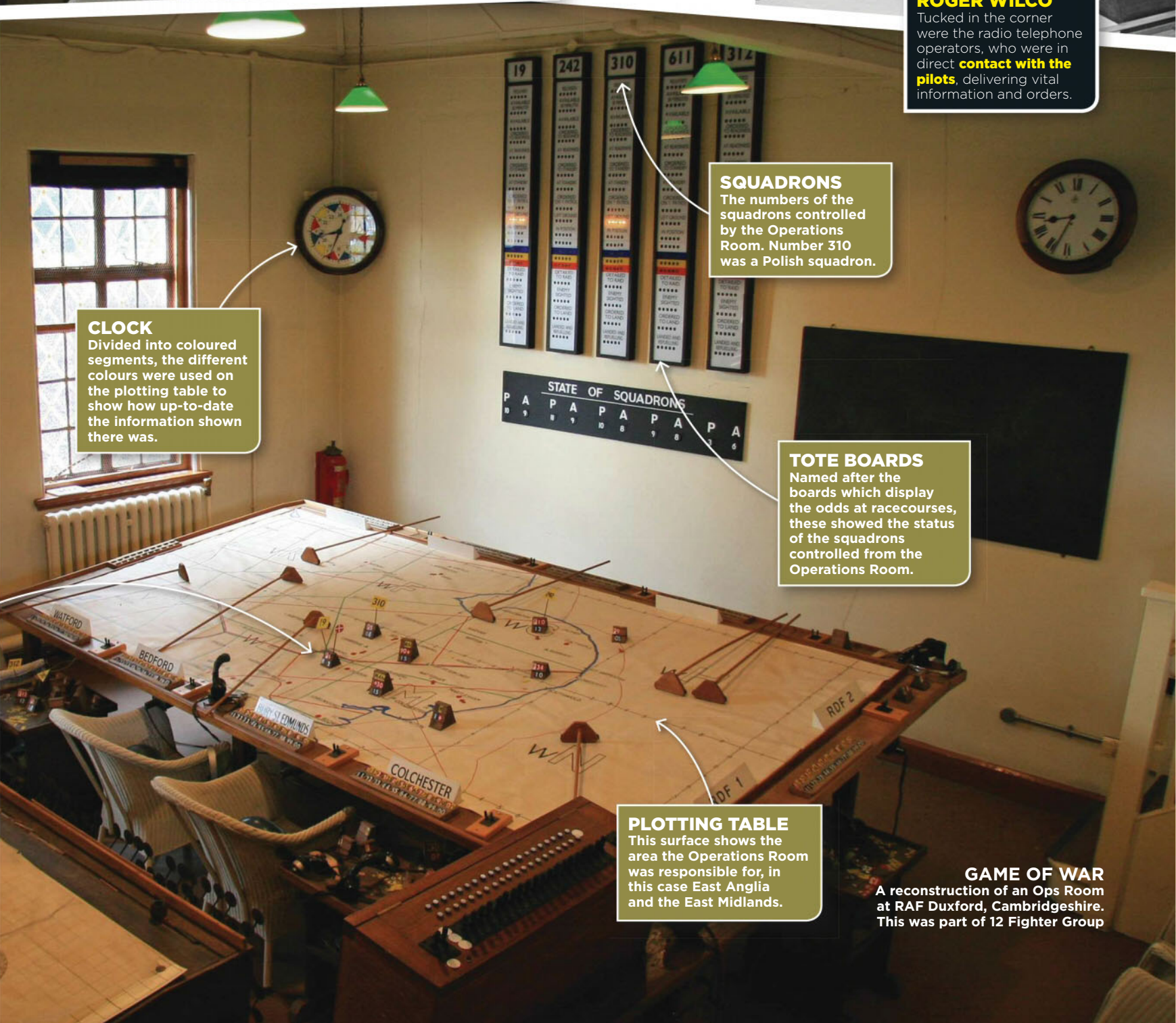


**NOW...**  
The Sector 'G'  
Operations  
Room at as it  
looks today



**...AND THEN**  
And as it was - a hive  
of information - during  
September 1940

**ROGER WILCO**  
Tucked in the corner  
were the radio telephone  
operators, who were in  
direct **contact with the  
pilots**, delivering vital  
information and orders.



**SQUADRONS**  
The numbers of the  
squadrons controlled  
by the Operations  
Room. Number 310  
was a Polish squadron.

**CLOCK**  
Divided into coloured  
segments, the different  
colours were used on  
the plotting table to  
show how up-to-date  
the information shown  
there was.

**TOTE BOARDS**  
Named after the  
boards which display  
the odds at racecourses,  
these showed the status  
of the squadrons  
controlled from the  
Operations Room.

**PLOTTING TABLE**  
This surface shows the  
area the Operations Room  
was responsible for, in  
this case East Anglia  
and the East Midlands.

**GAME OF WAR**  
A reconstruction of an Ops Room  
at RAF Duxford, Cambridgeshire.  
This was part of 12 Fighter Group





## THE BIG STORY BATTLE OF BRITAIN

connected to the aircraft, and the powerful Rolls Royce Merlin engines spluttered into life. Strapping themselves into their seats, the pilots pushed their throttles and the planes taxied forward onto the grass runway. Even this was not without its dangers, as the angle of the plane meant that the pilot couldn't see the ground in front of him. Soon, however, the Spitfires of 92 Squadron were airborne. Now the challenge was to get to the right place, at the right time and at the right height – all the while keeping a careful lookout for enemies. And they got it just right. As they swung round above Ashford, Kent, at about 25,000 feet, they saw the first group of German fighters about 3,000 feet below them, and the bombers with more fighters another 6,000 feet below that.

The German bombers hadn't been finding it easy. They were flying into a strong headwind, which was slowing them down, but even so they weren't too concerned. Convinced that Fighter Command was on its last legs, they thought it would only take a few heavy raids like this to flush out the last few British planes,

**56**

The number of German aircraft that were successfully shot down on 15 September

**RUN FOR YOUR LIVES**  
Pilots on duty could never stray beyond sprinting distance from their aircraft



**BATTLE STATIONS**  
RAF and ARP personnel examine Zehbe's downed bomber at Victoria Station

which could easily be dealt with by the mass of their own fighters that were flying with them. What they didn't know was that by switching their attacks from the airfields of the South East to London a week earlier, they had given Fighter Command vital time to reorganise and recover, and Park and Air Chief Marshall Hugh 'Stuff' Dowding had used that time brilliantly. At about 11:50, all hell broke loose. Diving into the covering German fighters, 92 Squadron and their partners from 72 Squadron shot down four enemy fighters and got in amongst the bombers. As Park committed more and more fighter squadrons into the fray, the Germans found themselves under continuous attack all the way to London. They were dumbfounded. Where had all these fighters come from? Six

bombers were shot down in an hour and four more so badly damaged that they had to turn round and struggle home. But the rest doggedly pressed on.

### LEFT BEHIND

With their fighter escorts either embroiled in running fights in the skies of southern England or preparing to head home because their fuel was running low, the best hope of survival for the remaining bombers was to stick together, and stick together they did. All except one. The Dornier of 26-year-old Oberleutnant Robert Zehbe from Kiel had developed engine trouble and was soon lagging half a mile behind the rest of the bombers. Flying in an isolated plane with a malfunctioning engine and no fighter protection, Zehbe's crew must have known

**“AS PILOTS SPRINTED  
TOWARDS THEIR SPITFIRES,  
MEMBERS OF THE GROUND CREW  
PRESSED THE STARTER BUTTONS”**





what was in store for them and, sure enough, it happened. Fighter after British fighter swooped on the Dornier in a bid to shoot it down. Planes like this were built to take a lot of punishment but even so, by the time it reached Kennington, two of the crew were dead, two had bailed out and the plane was on fire. Zehbe realised it was the end of the line and, after switching on the plane's autopilot, he bailed out himself.

One of the aircraft attacking the stricken Dornier was a Hurricane piloted by Sergeant Raymond Holmes. Holmes had been born in Cheshire and like Zehbe he was 26. He had already fired two bursts into the bomber, which was now over Victoria and wending its pilotless way in the direction of Buckingham Palace. What happened next has passed into legend. Whether it was by accident or design remains a matter of debate but Holmes flew his Hurricane into the tail of the bomber. The effects were devastating. The Dornier's entire tail snapped off, causing it to somersault through the air. The ends of the wings broke off as well and what remained of the plane crashed onto the forecourt of Victoria Station. But Holmes's Hurricane had also been damaged in the collision and, as it went into a spin, he too was forced to parachute out. His plane crashed nose first into the crossroads of Buckingham Palace Road and Pimlico Road, and virtually disappeared underground. Holmes, who was slightly wounded, floated gently to the ground. Pausing only to kiss two pretty girls, he was taken to the nearby Orange Brewery, where he downed a swift brandy before making for Chelsea Barracks and eventually to his base at Hendon.

## KNIVES OUT

A large crowd was waiting for Zehbe as he reached the ground in Kennington and, after a week of solid German bombing, they were in no mood to buy him a drink. The best that can be said about them was that they were 'hostile'. Some accounts claim he was given a beating by the crowd, which included women wielding pokers and kitchen knives. Others say that he'd already been badly wounded in the air and the crowd's main intention was to carve up his silk parachute. Zehbe was soon rescued by Sergeant Gillies of the Metropolitan Police and driven to hospital in a police van – right across the sacred

## HEINKEL HE 111 BOMBERS

By September, German crews believed the RAF was as good as finished



### NOT SO INNOCENT

Ostensibly, Germany's Heinkel He 111 was developed as a fast **mail and passenger** aircraft, though the prototype included provisions for **guns and a bomb** load.

## BAILING OUT DOWN BUT NOT OUT

One advantage the RAF enjoyed over the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain was that, if an RAF pilot managed to bail out of a damaged plane or make a crash landing, he could rejoin the fight later in another plane. A Luftwaffe crewman in the same situation became a prisoner of war. But bailing out was often easier said than done. Damage or air pressure could make it difficult to open the Perspex canopy over the cockpit. Standing in the open cockpit and jumping was inadvisable as you risked being hit by the plane's tail as it whizzed past, so RAF fighter pilots tended to turn a damaged plane upside down, undo their straps, push and let

gravity do the rest. Nobody liked parachuting into the sea – a pilot who did so normally had a maximum of about four hours in the water before succumbing to hypothermia.

But for most airmen the greatest fear was fire. Both British and German fighter pilots sat in close proximity to over 80 gallons of high-octane fuel. If it caught fire, the pilot had just a few seconds to get out of the blazing plane, and even then he might be left with horrific burns. The pioneering plastic surgery work carried out to help such victims at Archibald McIndoe's burns unit at East Grinstead is famous – his patients dubbed themselves 'the Guinea Pig Club'.



**A BIT OF R&R**  
McIndoe (in white coat) with his staff and 'guinea pigs'







## EXPERT VIEW

**David Keen**  
*The Royal Air  
Force Museum*

## THE GERMANS WERE NOT KEEN ON INVASION

### Why did Britain win the battle?

The determination of pilots from Britain, the Empire and occupied countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia was clearly an important factor. Britain's radar network coupled with the work of the Royal Observer Corps ensured that Dowding and Park could get those pilots in the right place at the right time to intercept the German raiders. Crucially, though, the battle was about keeping the RAF in being and at no time did British fighter losses exceed the numbers of planes being produced to replace them.

### If the Germans had won, did Operation Sealion stand any chance of success?

Neither the German army nor the navy were keen on the idea of invasion. The absence of proper landing craft and the presence of the Royal Navy would have made it a hazardous venture to say the least. But a German victory in the air might have made an invasion unnecessary. Following Dunkirk, German supremacy in the air may well have led Britain to sue for peace.

### Does the Spitfire deserve its reputation as the plane that won the Battle of Britain?

The Spitfire was the glamour plane. It was technologically more advanced than the Hurricane and it was held in high regard by the Germans. Having said that, the Hurricane was more numerous and shot down more German planes. Ultimately though, when discussing the relative merits of the Spitfire, the Hurricane and the Me BF 109, the fact remains that an above-average pilot would shoot down a mediocre pilot whatever plane his opponent was flying.

### Why was the battle so important and why is it still remembered?

Churchill summed that up when he said: "The odds were great; our margins small; the stakes were infinite."

**1,900**

The total number of German aircraft lost during the Battle – the RAF lost over 1,500

turf of Kennington Oval. He died the following day. Whether this was from wounds received in the air or inflicted on the ground is not known.

The main group of Dorniers had just finished bombing their target – the railway lines between Clapham Junction and Battersea Power Station – when they came under fresh attack, this time by Douglas Bader's 'Big Wing' of five squadrons of fighters from No 12 Group (see page 34). There were now so many planes in the air that the British were actually having to queue up to attack the bombers, which, still in formation, were now heading for home.

The Dorniers were badly shot up and full of dead and wounded, but somehow they made it safely back to France. The response of their depleted and exhausted crews to anyone who suggested that the RAF was on the brink of defeat would have been short and to the point.

## RED BULBS

The morning attack had been badly mauled, but more was to come. A second, even heavier, raid was launched in the afternoon. Three waves of aircraft came over on a ten-mile front but once again Fighter Command was able to oppose it in strength, as Park threw everything he had at the raiders. In heavy fighting over South East London and Dartford, his fighters were once again able to get past those of the Germans and attack the bombers. This time, 21 were downed. There was still time to launch two further attacks, on the docks at Portland and on the Spitfire factory in Southampton, but neither did much damage. Churchill watched events develop on the maps and boards at Uxbridge, an unlit cigar clamped

between his jaws. He later wrote: "Presently the red bulbs showed that the majority of our squadrons were engaged. In a little while all our squadrons were flying and some had already begun to return for fuel. All were in the air. The lower line of bulbs were out. There was not one squadron left in reserve."

As the fighting came to an end and the tired RAF pilots returned to their bases, it was time for them to file their combat reports. These were used to help commanders assess what had happened, work out how many enemy aircraft had been destroyed and plan accordingly. It was almost inevitable that an inflated number of enemy planes would be claimed as destroyed for, in the heat of battle, a number of pilots might all damage the same aircraft and assume they were responsible for shooting it down. Indeed, no fewer than nine different pilots 'claimed' Zehbe's Dornier. On this day, the euphoric RAF initially claimed to have destroyed an astonishing 185 aircraft. Park knew it was nonsense but soon the figure was being broadcast around the world. In the event, it turned out that 56 German planes had been shot down for the loss of just 28 British planes.

In terms of kills, it had not had been the RAF's most successful day, but it had been an impressive performance nonetheless, and a huge blow to Luftwaffe morale. Mrs Park had her birthday present. ☺



**RISING ABOVE**  
The undamaged dome of St Paul's became a symbol of defiance

## THE BLITZ

Before the Battle of Britain ended, bombing of civilian targets began...

The Blitz is the name given to the sustained bombing of British cities that began with the first massed air raid on London on 7 September. It continued in one form or other for eight months, only petering out in May 1941 when the Germans began to prepare their invasion of Russia. London came under sustained attack – it was bombed for 57 consecutive nights and by the end of October more than 250,000 Londoners were homeless. Many other cities were also attacked.

On 14 November 1940, Coventry was virtually destroyed, as 500 German bombers dropped 500 tonnes of high explosives and nearly 1,000 incendiary bombs on the city in ten hours of relentless bombardment. It was a tactic

that was emulated on an even greater scale by the British and Americans later in the war – the week-long bombing of Hamburg in July 1943 caused over 40,000 civilian deaths, the same number of British deaths in the entire eight-month Blitz campaign.

Although the Blitz-proper ended in 1941, sporadic raids would continue. A series of German raids in 1942 targeted historic cities and were nicknamed 'Baedeker raids' after the German guidebooks of that name. In 1944 and 1945, the Germans tried a different tack; the V1 'doodlebugs' and V2 rockets they launched against Britain killed nearly 9,000 civilians.





# GET HOOKED

As well as these resources, there is a wealth of 75th-anniversary activity planned

## MUSEUMS AND RESIDENCES



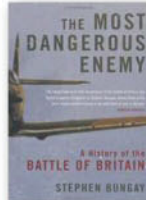
### ▲ ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM, LONDON

The Battle of Britain Hall at the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon houses a comprehensive selection of the key aircraft from both sides that fought in the Battle of Britain.  
[www.rafmuseum.org.uk](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk)

### ALSO VISIT

- Imperial War Museum, Duxford, near Cambridge [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)
- Churchill War Rooms, London [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

## BOOKS



### THE MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY (2000)

By Stephen Bungay

This brilliant account of the Battle of Britain shows how individual heroism was backed up by solid organisation and ruthlessness.



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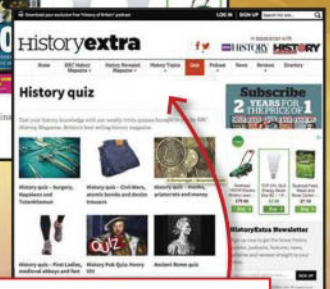
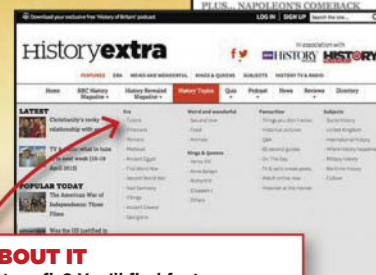
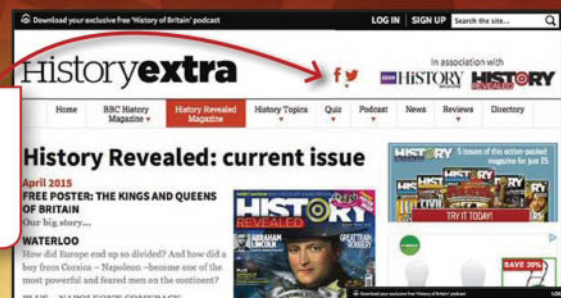
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THE HISTORY MAKERS  
KING JOHN AND  
MAGNA CARTA



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# BAD KING JOHN

It is 800 years since the birth of Magna Carta, one of history's most important documents, yet the King who granted his royal seal to the great charter remains maligned and despised, as **Jonny Wilkes** explores





**THE MAGNA  
CARTA KING**  
King John didn't  
actually sign Magna  
Carta, as illustrated  
here, but granted  
his royal seal to it





## THE HISTORY MAKERS KING JOHN AND MAGNA CARTA

### THE MANY FACES OF BAD KING JOHN

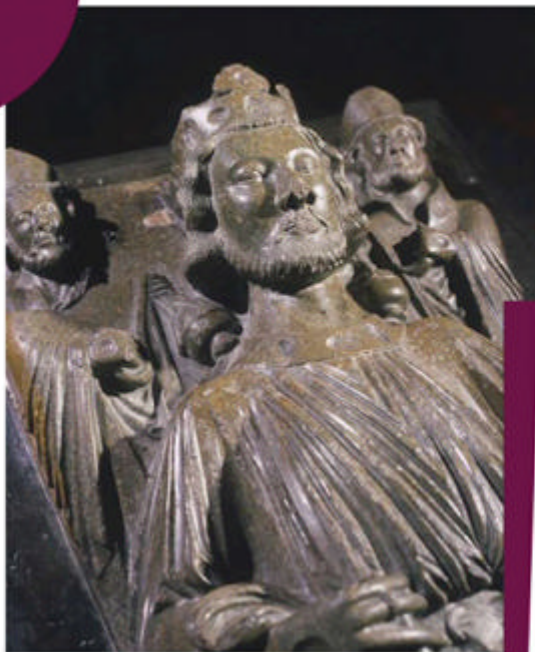
Today, King John's archetypal image is of a snarling, scheming and spineless medieval tyrant, constantly outwitted by the dashing hero Robin Hood. Yes, it's a fictitious and over-simplified portrayal, but his real-life exploits don't help his case. He was a ruthless taxman and a cruel womaniser who made enemies of his own people and plunged his country into civil war. There is no denying John has one of the worst reputations of any English king or queen – which is really saying something, considering the competition. This is despite being the King who granted his seal, albeit reluctantly, to the charter that redefined English law, Magna Carta. But how have the passing centuries affected his legend? Has history been unkind to the 'Bad King'?

**T**here is a meadow on the outskirts of London, sat on the bank of the River Thames in Surrey. It doesn't look like much, certainly not a spot heavy with symbolic meaning, but that field, Runnymede, is where one of the founding documents of human liberty was created and agreed on, 800 years ago.

The document we now refer to as Magna Carta ('the Great Charter') was granted the royal seal of King John on 15 June 1215. It went some way to protecting people's rights and, crucially, it limited the powers of the Crown by putting the reigning monarch under the law. Make no mistake about it, a charter that revolutionary could only have been drawn up if there was a king who inspired great enmity among his people, and John was that King. He ruled as a tyrant, lost English territories in multiple embarrassing campaigns and squeezed every penny from his barons. And only months after Magna Carta was sealed, he turned his back on the agreement, even though he knew this would mean civil war.

WINSTON CHURCHILL,  
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

**"When the long tally is added, it will be seen that the British nation and the English-speaking world owe far more to the vices of John than to the labours of virtuous sovereigns."**



### HONOURABLE BURIAL

Knowing that he was close to death in October 1216, John dictated that he wished to be buried in Worcester – a town that had recently been recaptured by his royalist forces. As his will also protected his son Henry III's succession, his body was treated with respect when he died. It was carried to Worcester Cathedral and laid to rest in front of the altar. In 1232, a new sarcophagus was built, featuring an effigy of John laying in dignified repose, sword in hand.

John has one of the worst legacies of any English royal – not due to his fabled exploits against Robin Hood, but his pomposity, cruelty and fatal lapses in judgement. Yet, does 'Bad King John' deserve the dubious honour of being called England's worst monarch?

### FAMILY FEUD

Born in 1166, childhood was far from harmonious for John, the youngest son of King Henry II and his smart, powerful wife Eleanor of Aquitaine. With four older brothers, it was unlikely he would ever become King or inherit substantial land from his father's empire, which is how he picked up the nickname 'Lackland'. All that changed, however, when he was six. His brothers Henry, Geoffrey and Richard plotted with Louis VII of France to seize the throne from their own father. Henry II made swift work of crushing the rebellion and, even though



### TYRANNICAL REX

Several medieval chroniclers, most of them monks, wrote highly unsympathetic histories of John's reign. They were likely influenced by John's rift with the papacy and decade-long quarrel with the Church. One of the most vitriolic of his critics was Matthew Paris, writing in the years after John's death. In his chronicles, he asserts, "Foul as it is, Hell itself is made fouler by the presence of John".

his brothers were dealt with leniently, John leapfrogged his siblings to become the King's favourite son.

John was presented with lands and titles, as well as a betrothal to the wealthy Isabella of Gloucester, so that before he was a teenager, he had been given the estates of the Earl of Cornwall and the lordship of Ireland. He visited the latter in 1185 – but the trip caused a political brouhaha when the inexperienced, tactless John insulted the Irish chieftains by pulling on their long beards.

And when Richard (the Lionheart) became King in 1189, John couldn't resist the temptation of being so close to the throne. Although John's three-year-old nephew Arthur (the son of the late Geoffrey) was named heir over him, the covetous Prince saw his chance when Richard was captured in 1193, on return from the Crusades. John attempted to overthrow Richard's chancellor and crown himself King, only for the plot to fail. On Richard's return, John was punished with the loss of his lands.

By the time of Richard's death in 1199, however, John had wormed his way back into favour and gathered support among many of the English nobility. His position was strong enough that – despite Arthur's rival claim, backed by





## ACCORDING TO THE BARD

In Tudor times, religious and political upheaval led to a more positive outlook on John's legacy, with historians praising his resistance to papal pressure. In a time of strong monarchs, John was seen as a bastion of the divine right of kings and queens. William Shakespeare wrote a play about him, depicting him as a fiercely patriotic, if treacherous, monarch.

the French King Philip II – John was crowned at Westminster. It was a risky move, but John was able to placate Philip with a fragile peace, which seemed to secure his territories in France and gain recognition of his claim to the throne.

## CROWN GAINED, LANDS LOST

There was some cause for optimism.

John was a cultured, literate leader who had extensive knowledge of his lands and took an active interest in the country's financial and judicial administration. He was also the first King since 1066 who spoke English, as well as French.

Yet, in typical manner, John's relentless, belligerent behaviour made sure the peace didn't last long. In 1199, John abandoned his wife Isabella of Gloucester in order that he could marry the young girl Isabella of Angoulême instead, ignoring the fact that she was already betrothed to someone else. Matters were made worse when an appeal was made by Isabella's intended husband to Philip II, who summoned the English King to the French court to answer for his actions, only for John to refuse. Philip declared war, and John was forced into a costly, logistical nightmare of a conflict to defend his territories in France.

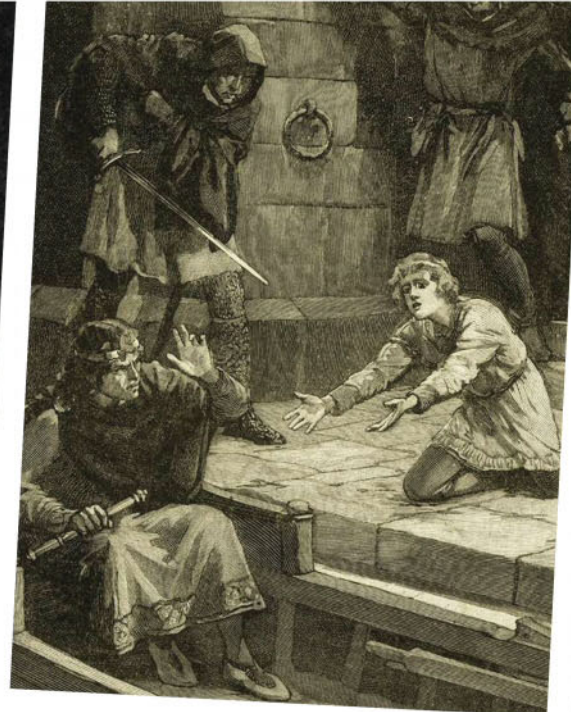
He failed. Philip's forces well and truly hammered John's armies. Moreover, his terrible

treatment of prisoners and his rumoured murder of his nephew Arthur caused outrage among his enemies and allies alike, many of whom deserted him or switched sides. By 1206, John had lost Normandy, Anjou and parts of Poitou and he retreated to England, humiliated and with the duchy of Aquitaine as his only remaining territory in France.

**“Foul as it is, Hell itself is made fouler by the presence of John”**

*13th-century chronicler Matthew Paris*

Nothing meant more to John than his reconquering of these lost lands, but to launch a campaign meant raising a lot of money for his war chests. The intransigent John set about the task with ruthless efficiency, overhauling the financial system to make his nobles to pay up. And if they couldn't, punishments were severe, as their land and property could be forfeited to the Crown. One such financial measure was the levying of scutage payments, paid in lieu of military service, which he demanded 11 times in his years as King – the same total as the three Kings before him combined. As well as extensive taxes, John filled his coffers by



## VICTORIAN VILLAIN

The descent of John's reputation into villainy was complete by the 19th century – when Victorian writers and historians increasingly saw the medieval period as a time of chivalry and honour. It was with novels such as *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle and Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* that the Robin Hood myth became forevermore entangled with John's legacy.

charging for the appointment of sheriffs, steep fining of crimes in the royal forests, and the selling of charters for new towns.

As well as funding a war, John was also facing religious upheaval. When the Archbishop of Canterbury, Hubert Walter, died in 1205, John refused Pope Innocent III's nomination for his replacement, a brilliant thinker named Stephen Langton. The furore saw the Pope

issue an interdict, prohibiting nearly all religious services, and excommunicating John in 1209. The matter was only resolved in 1213 – by which time John's thoughts were dominated by his imminent campaign – thanks to extreme measures. Langton was appointed and John took the extraordinary step of

surrendering the entire Kingdom of England to the papacy, in return for papal support and an annual stipend (rather ironically, £666 a year).

## ROAD TO RUNNYMEDE

John's meticulously planned campaign back to France began in early 1214, with high hopes of regaining an English foothold on the continent. But before the year was out, John was back in England with his tail between his legs, having achieved next to nothing, and with a six-year truce agreed. Part of the failure was down to discontent among the barons – they had refused to provide men-at-arms, angered as they





## THE HISTORY MAKERS KING JOHN AND MAGNA CARTA



### JOHN v ROBIN HOOD

Hollywood has been enraptured by Robin Hood, with countless versions of his legend being made throughout the 20th century – and all depicting John as the pantomime bad guy. In the 1938 swashbuckling hit *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, Claude Rains plays the deceitful Prince John who seizes the throne from his brother and hunts down Errol Flynn's Robin. The film stands as one of the most iconic tellings of the Robin Hood story.



### COWARDLY LION

Arguably the most enduring cinematic depiction of John comes from Disney's 1973 animation *Robin Hood*. Voiced by Peter Ustinov, John is a cowardly, childish, greedy, thumb-sucking lion with a snake as an adviser.



### TIME TO RETHINK?

Several modern historians have attempted to balance out the history of John's reign, focussing on his adept and determined efforts in the administration of the country. Rather than leaving the hard work to others, John took a personal role in his finances and the organisation of the judicial system. Yet there is a general consensus that John was let down by his erratic and petty behaviour, and his propensity towards cruelty.

were by excessive taxes and John's inconsistent and arbitrary treatment towards them.

Relations continued to sour until May 1215 when several barons, led by Robert Fitzwalter, renounced their fealty to John and civil war broke out. What was unusual was that the barons weren't looking to replace John – they had no rival claimant in mind – but rather seek redress on wrongs done to them. In years to come, this gave the plight of the barons a romantic twist, making them out to be in search of liberty against the evil machinations of a despotic villain. On 17 May, the barons captured London, making it impossible for John to avoid the negotiating table.

On 10 June, the barons met with John halfway between the rebel stronghold at Staines and John's base at Windsor Castle – at Runnymede – to discuss the terms laid out in the Articles of the Barons. Archbishop Langton was the chief mediator in the negotiations, which lasted ten days before both sides accepted the details of the final document, which would later become known as Magna Carta. It was the first formal document to limit the power of the monarch, and state that they are as much under the law as their people, while upholding the rights of free people – although in 13th-century England, this was a small minority.

As a peace treaty, Magna Carta failed miserably. It may be treated with utmost

reverence today, but, in truth, the first document lasted only ten weeks before civil war erupted again. Neither the barons nor John intended to abide by it, while Pope Innocent III annulled the document entirely, describing it in a letter as “not only shameful and demeaning but also illegal and unjust”. He went on to declare the charter, “null and void of all validity for ever”.

### BARON WASTELAND

Magna Carta was finished before it even got going, and England was at war. John dealt with rebel forces with the same ruthlessness and violence by which he ruled, as the northern counties and Scottish borders were laid to waste, leaving rebellious barons in dire need of support. They, therefore, requested the help of Prince Louis of France, who agreed to send a force to invade England. With these French allies, the barons regained control of the South East and North, leaving John no option but retreat west and regroup.

That autumn, John attempted a counter-offensive, but everything was going against him. It is said, although it is difficult to confirm whether this actually happened, that his baggage train went missing trying to cross the Wash, in East Anglia. This included the loss of the Crown Jewels. Then, John contracted dysentery (although there have been rumours that he was poisoned by the venom of a toad). On 15 October, he wrote to the Pope saying he was, “detained by a serious and incurable

illness”. Three days later, after being carried in great pain to Newark Castle, John died, seemingly leaving his dynasty in tatters.

Just before his death, however, John got something crucially right – he dictated a will. It is the earliest surviving royal will in history, and it secured the succession of John's nine-year-old son, Henry III, under the guardianship of the brave and much-respected knight William Marshal. Under his leadership, the civil war was brought to an end in 1217 with the defeat of the rebel barons, and Magna Carta was reissued several times – ensuring its place in history.

As for John, his reputation is destined to fester at the very dregs of English royal history. Maybe that's where he belongs. Not just because he was cruel, tyrannical and treated his subjects with downright contempt – there have been numerous examples of similar English monarchs since him – but because without a King so loathed as John, there would never have been Magna Carta. When that document came to stand for so much good, carrying as it does the mantle of human liberty, it needed an adversary, a necessary evil, a villain. ☉



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What were the good points about 'Bad' King John's reign?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



# MAGNA CARTA

## How 'the Great Charter' changed from being a failed peace treaty to one of the earliest documents establishing England's fledgling democracy

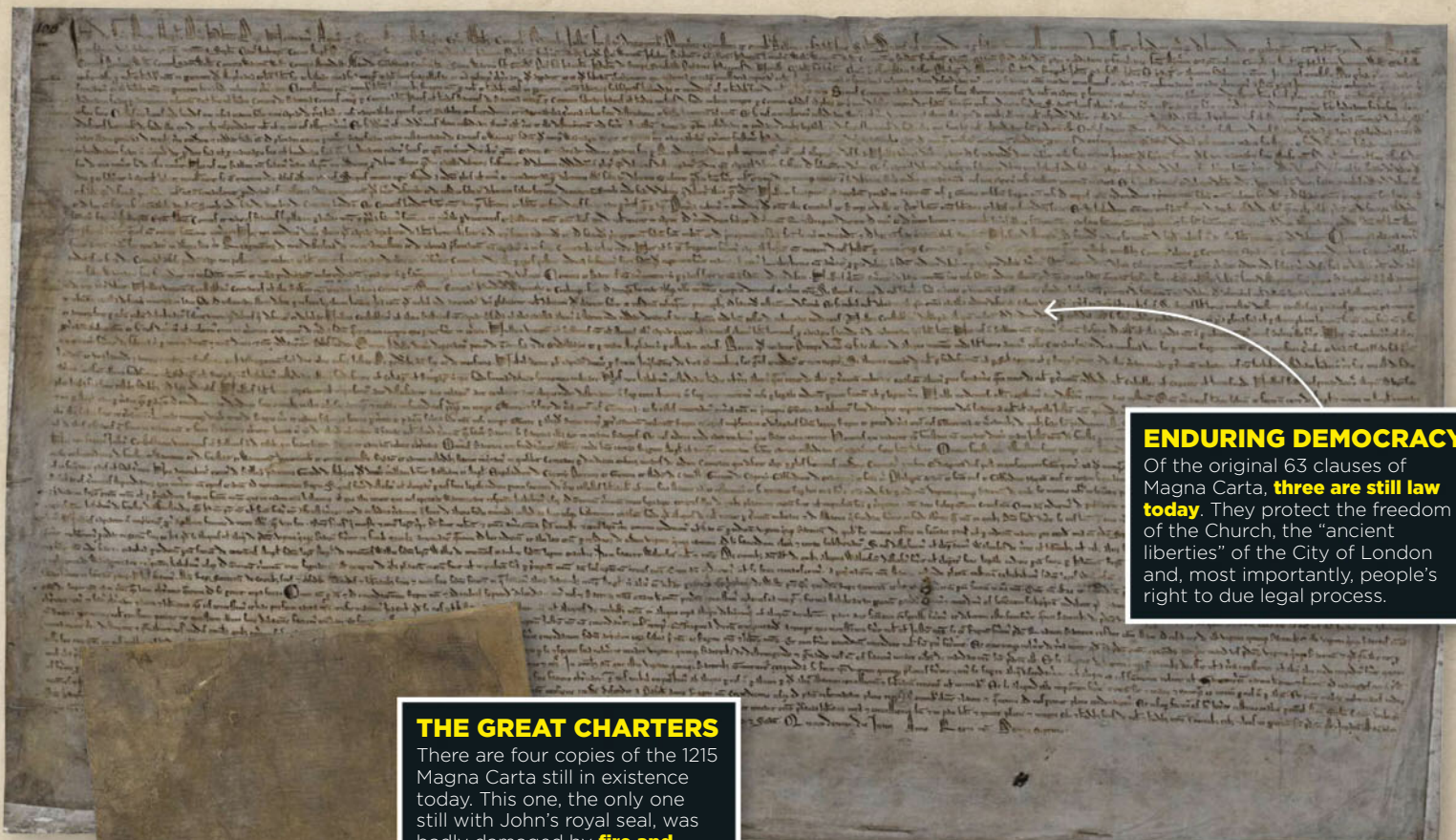
The 1215 agreement between John and his barons wasn't the first time an English King promised good government, safeguarded the rights of their subjects and put limits on their own power. When Henry I was crowned in 1100, after being elected King by the barons, he issued his Coronation Charter, including the assertion, "I abolish all the evil customs by

which the kingdom of England has been unjustly oppressed."

But what Magna Carta did was establish the principle that no one, not even the King or Queen, was above the law, and guarantees the rights of the individual to justice and a fair trial. The most famous line of Magna Carta – and one of the three clauses still on the statute books today – reads: "No free man shall be seized

or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." It is important to note that this only applied to 'free' subjects in England, which accounted for a minority as most were unfree serfs.

Its primary goal in 1215, however, was as a peace treaty between John and a band of rebellious barons, and to that end, it failed. Yet, if anything, the abruptness of the charter's practical use only served to enhance its symbolic meaning through the years. Eventually, it became something that the original document never intended to be: a foundation stone of human rights.



**ENDURING DEMOCRACY**  
Of the original 63 clauses of Magna Carta, **three are still law today**. They protect the freedom of the Church, the "ancient liberties" of the City of London and, most importantly, people's right to due legal process.

**THE GREAT CHARTERS**  
There are four copies of the 1215 Magna Carta still in existence today. This one, the only one still with John's royal seal, was badly damaged by **fire and poor conservation** efforts.

## A CLAUSE TOO FAR

In the 1215 Magna Carta, a specific clause was particularly controversial, and may have been a key factor in getting the document annulled by the Pope – who feared that a dangerous precedent could be set. Clause 61 established a council of 25 barons to implement the charter and ensure that John was adhering to it.

What's more, the council were to be given extensive powers to seize royal lands and property if they believed the monarch had acted beyond the law. As the 1215 Magna Carta only lasted ten weeks, the council never formed and, in later versions of Magna Carta, clause 61 was removed.



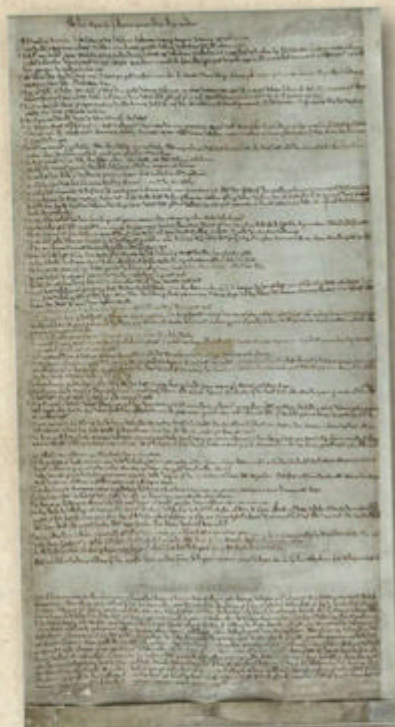


# 800 YEARS OF MAGNA CARTA

John and his barons couldn't have known how their charter would reverberate throughout civilisations around the world...

**A**lthough John is the King so readily associated with Magna Carta, it was the reign of his son and successor Henry III that saved the historic document from obscurity. With civil war still raging in 1216, the nine-year-old Henry and his guardian, William Marshal, reissued Magna Carta in the hope of winning over disgruntled barons to help push the French Prince Louis out of England. Henry implemented further reissues in 1217 and 1225, which cemented the principles of Magna Carta in English law and society.

Since then, Magna Carta has inspired politicians and civil-rights leaders around the world, including Thomas Jefferson and Nelson Mandela, and its influence can be seen in other iconic documents such as the US Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It could be argued Magna Carta is one of England's most successful exports. At the least, what is clear is that over 800 years, the values Magna Carta has come to represent remain just as relevant and important as they ever were. ○



**1215**

◀ At Runnymede, King John meets with his barons on 10 June to discuss the original Magna Carta – called the Articles of the Barons. It is granted the royal seal on 15 June and finalised four days later. The charter survives only ten weeks before being annulled by the Pope.

**1225**

The decisive version of Magna Carta is issued when Henry III comes of age and assumes power for himself. The charter, which has cut nearly half of the original text, is given more authority as it is granted by Henry's "spontaneous and free will". Copies are hung in cathedrals and violations are threatened with excommunication.

**1297**

▲ In return for a new tax, King Edward I reissues Magna Carta. This is the version that is still in the statute books today (albeit just three clauses of it).



## TIMELINE

**1216**

▼ Shortly after Henry III is crowned King, Magna Carta is reissued with some amendments by his guardian, the famous knight William Marshal, in the hope of appeasing the still-fighting barons.

**1265**

A radical, new form of parliament meets under Baron Simon de Montfort. Both knights and elected regional representatives attend, and they discuss issues of national interest, rather than just taxation. This parliament is seen as the first version of the House of Commons.

**1535**

▼ While on trial for high treason, former adviser to Henry VIII, Thomas More, quotes a passage from Magna Carta in his defence. He is found guilty and executed. In the 16th century, Magna Carta is printed for the first time.

**1217**

When reissued again alongside another document – the Charter of the Forests – the charter is named 'Magna Carta' for the first time.

**ON TRIAL**  
A shrewd lawyer, Thomas More uses Magna Carta in his defence

**THIRD TIME'S A CHARM**  
Henry III reissues Magna Carta three times during his reign





**1628**

► Sir Edward Coke, an English lawyer and Member of Parliament, drafts the highly influential Petition of Right using Magna Carta as the chief inspiration. It is a statement of civil liberties sent by Parliament to Charles I challenging royal power and authority. In a time when monarchs are claiming greater powers, the Petition of Right is hugely controversial. It plays a key part in the British Civil Wars and the trial of Charles I in 1649, as did Magna Carta.

**BOLD STATEMENT**  
Sir Edward Coke writes the Petition of Right, based on Magna Carta



**1915**

The first female barrister in England, Helena Normanton, publishes the essay *Magna Carta and Women*, claiming that withholding the vote from women contravenes the historic charter.

**1957**

▲ Overlooking Runnymede, a domed gazebo is erected as a memorial to Magna Carta, with the inscription: "To commemorate Magna Carta, symbol of Freedom Under Law". As a sign of how the charter means just as much, if not more, to Americans as to British, the memorial is commissioned by the American Bar Association.



**MODERN MAN**  
Politician, judge and writer, William Blackstone

**1759**

▲ Esteemed writer William Blackstone publishes his book, *The Great Charter* – the first definitive interpretation of Magna Carta since medieval times.

**1776**

▲ When the first colonists had journeyed to the New World, one of the things they took with them was Magna Carta, so its principles were strongly embraced in the Americas. Thomas Jefferson draws direct comparisons with Magna Carta when drafting the Declaration of Independence. The influence of Magna Carta is also evident in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. Today, the US Supreme Court has cited Magna Carta over 400 times.



**GLOBAL CHANGE**  
Magna Carta inspires Roosevelt's document

**1948**

▲ The influence of Magna Carta can be seen in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt, chair of the document's charting committee, states of the Declaration: "This... may well become the international Magna Carta of all men everywhere."

**1689**

▼ At the climax of the Glorious Revolution, William of Orange and his wife Mary are offered the throne of England on the condition that they accept the newly drafted Bill of Rights. Like Magna Carta, it limits royal powers by making it illegal for the Crown to suspend the law.

**1763**

John Wilkes, a politician and newspaper editor, is arrested for criticising King George III and his government in print. He cites Magna Carta to garner public support. Over the next five years, Wilkes faces many ordeals – including further arrests, expulsion from Parliament, exile and being re-elected to Parliament from a prison cell – all while using symbolism of Magna Carta to great effect.

**1838**

▼ A mass-scale working-class movement, Chartism, gains national attention with the publication of its People's Charter. It laid out six major reforms to improve democracy. This is a time when Magna Carta is being used on a wealth of products, such as porcelain, fabrics, posters and games.

**1941**

To persuade America to join World War II, a scheme is devised to present them Lincoln Cathedral's copy of the 1215 Magna Carta – without the cathedral's permission. The memo outlining the plan ends: "After all, we possess four copies of Magna Carta".

**1964**

At his trial, South African civil-rights activist Nelson Mandela says: "Magna Carta, the Petition of Rights and the Bill of Rights are documents which are held in veneration by democrats throughout the world".



**PORCELAIN PARAPHERNALIA**  
The Victorians lap up Magna Carta trinkets



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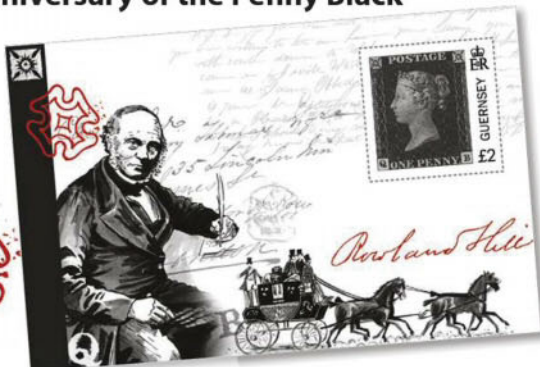
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Britain's first Indian restaurant was the Hindoostane Coffee-House, opened in London in 1810 by Bengali entrepreneur Dean Mahomed. Sadly, the nation wasn't ready to begin its love affair with curry - he was bankrupt by 1812.

**MIGHTY MINO**  
The female warriors held quasi-sacred status in Dahomey culture - they were known as *Mino* ('our mothers')

## HAS THERE EVER BEEN A WOMEN-ONLY ARMY?



The Ministry of Defence has long debated whether women should fight for the nation's armed forces but King Gezo of Dahomey had no such reservations. The Kings of Dahomey (modern-day Benin) had used women as palace guards back in the 18th century, but by 1850, Gezo had thousands of all-female regiments in his army. The Dahomeans were fighting enemies

who greatly outnumbered them, so it was decided to bolster their forces with fierce female warriors, known as the *Mino*.

They were skilled and deadly opponents, thanks in part to their often brutal training. The *Mino* climbed thorn hedges to get used to pain, and executed prisoners in order to hone killer instincts. Although they were equipped with firearms, their speciality was

hand-to-hand combat and they went into action wielding razor sharp machetes. Their last battles were in the 1890s, when they found themselves up against the French who were colonising West Africa. The undoubted bravery of Dahomey's soldiers, both male and female, was no match for the modern weaponry of the French and they were eventually, and bloodily, defeated. JH

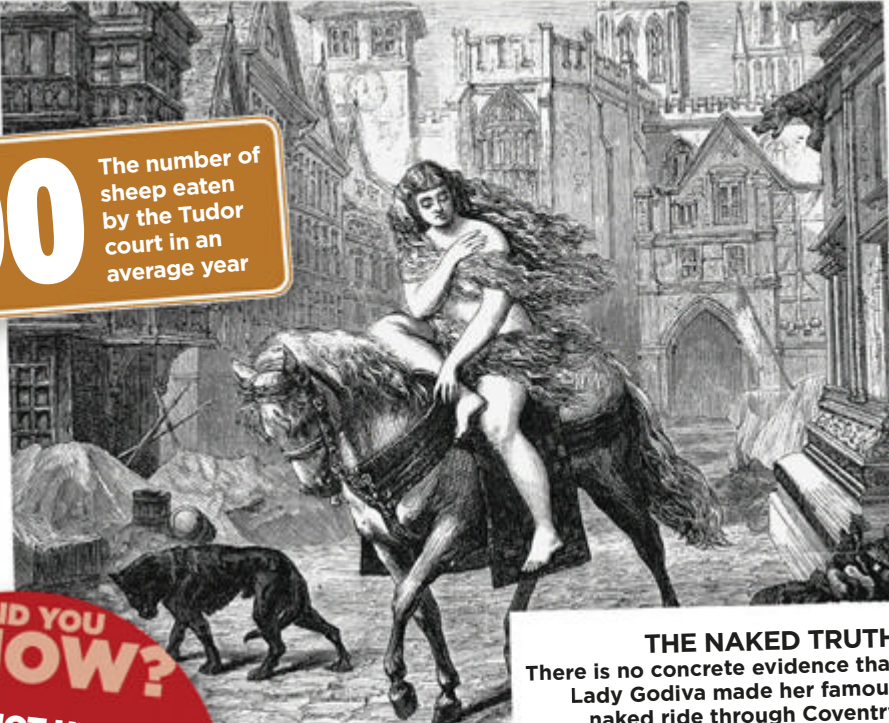


# What is the first known aircraft disappearance?

 The world was shocked when Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 vanished from the radar in March 2014, leaving the families of the 239 passengers and crew bereft with grief. It's the most high profile aeronautical mystery in recent history, but sadly there have been several previous instances of lost aircraft. Many will know of Amelia Earhart's tragic disappearance in 1937, but in Cuba they still remember the disappearance of the balloonist Matias Perez – who took off in 1856 and was never seen again. Indeed, the Cuban expression for something suddenly disappearing is “it flew away like Matias Perez”. No trace of him or his balloon was ever found. **GJ**

# 8,200

The number of sheep eaten by the Tudor court in an average year




**THE NAKED TRUTH**  
There is no concrete evidence that Lady Godiva made her famous naked ride through Coventry

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD**  
The bullet that killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, which set off a chain of events leading to World War I, is now on display at Konopiště Castle in the Czech Republic. It was the final residence of the Archduke.

## DID LADY GODIVA RIDE NAKED IN COVENTRY?

 Short version: no, she didn't. Lady Godifu (or Godgyfu) was a real woman and she was married to one of the wealthiest men in Anglo-Saxon England, Earl Leofric of Mercia. Less famously, the pair were generous patrons of monasteries, and Godifu (which should actually be pronounced Gud-geef-uh), in particular donated much gold and silver to make crucifixes.

Despite both dying roughly around the time of 1066, the story of her naked ride through Coventry was

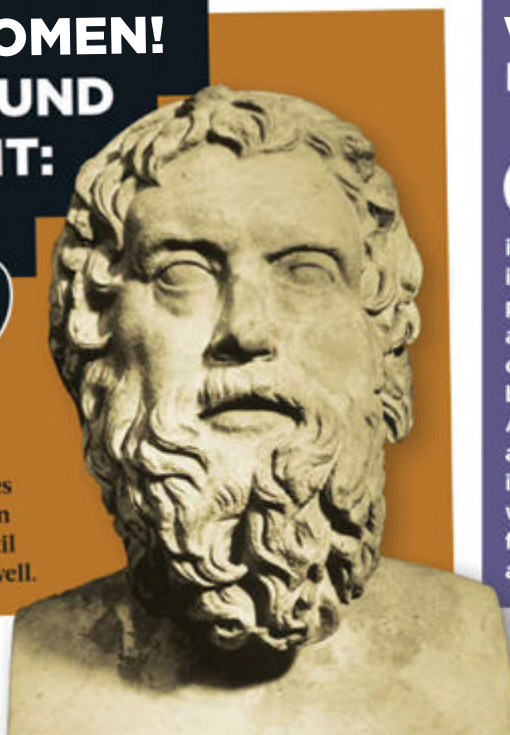
first recorded by the chronicler Roger of Wendover in the 1200s, so isn't considered reliable by historians.

Indeed, Wendover only says Leofric offered to lower taxes on the poor if his wife mounted her horse in the nude, but he doesn't make clear if she went through with it. Nevertheless, the tale became well-known, and in the 1600s, the extra element of Peeping Tom – who leered at her body while the townspeople respectfully shut their eyes – was added for an extra bit of juicy drama. **GJ**




**“THESE IMPOSSIBLE WOMEN! HOW THEY DO GET AROUND US! THE POET WAS RIGHT: CAN'T LIVE WITH THEM, OR WITHOUT THEM.”**  
**ARISTOPHANES (c450-388 BC)**

The Ancient Greek playwright, and godfather of comedy, Aristophanes gave us this oft-repeated quote in one of his 40 plays, *Lysistrata* (411 BC). The headstrong Lysistrata devises a bold plan to end an ongoing war – she convinces the women of Greece to abstain from having sex with their husbands until peace is negotiated. This, you can imagine, doesn't go down well.



## WHO MADE THE FIRST BOOZE?

 Quite when the link between fermented fruit or grain and intoxication was established is unknown. But residue from pottery in China suggests that an alcoholic drink composed of honey, grapes and rice was brewed from at least 7000 BC. Alcohol was very important for altering a person's state of mind in religious experiences, but it was undoubtedly also created for social reasons. In short, our ancestors liked to party. **MR**



## IN A NUTSHELL

# THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Although a failure, the armed uprising was the first major threat to Soviet control since the end of World War II...



### What was it?

The Hungarian Revolution was a popular uprising in 1956 against Soviet-imposed Communist rule in the country.

### What were the people protesting about?

The origins of the revolution date back to the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union's Red Army defeated the Nazi German occupiers of Hungary and their Hungarian collaborators. After the war – as was the case in much of Eastern Europe – the Soviet Union retained a military presence and sought to bring about a government that was friendly to its interests. With Soviet support, the Hungarian Communist Party

marginalised political opposition until, by 1949, Hungary had effectively become a Communist dictatorship, modelled on the Soviet Union. Many Hungarians were opposed to the new regime that had been forced on them and in October 1956, this hostility turned into open revolt.

### How did revolt flare up?

The timing of the revolution reflected events taking place elsewhere in Europe. In February of that year, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev made a speech denouncing some of the worst actions of his predecessor Josef Stalin. This came as a great encouragement to people who lived under Soviet domination, who could hope that reforms might be possible. In fact, an uprising in Poland that summer had already led to a change in the government there. Hungarians had also had a taste of a more liberal government from 1953–55 under the leadership of the

**HUNGARY FOR FREEDOM**  
Even with tanks and determined fighters, the Hungarian Revolution was no match for the Red Army

reformer Imre Nagy, who had eventually been ousted by the Soviet Union and replaced with unpopular hardliners.

The spark for the uprising came on 23 October 1956 at a rally in Budapest. It began as a student demonstration, demanding changes in how Hungary itself was governed. But when government authorities opened fire on demonstrators, violence erupted and soon the country was in a state of rebellion.

### What were the aims of the revolution?

The demonstrators wanted to reinstate Nagy and then move the country into a more liberal direction with democracy and free elections. They also hoped to reduce Soviet influence.

### Did the revolution succeed?

Initially it was a great success. Soviet forces were compelled to withdraw from the country and Nagy became Prime Minister, promising to bring through a series of widespread reforms.

For a few days, the Soviet leadership was unsure of how to respond, but it was decided that an uprising like this could not be allowed to succeed in one of their 'satellite' states. The retaliation was harsh. On 4 November, a Soviet invasion force stormed into Hungary and, with overwhelming firepower,

swiftly crushed the revolution. Nagy fled and was replaced by a new leader, Janos Kadar, who brought the country back into the Soviet orbit.

### How did the West respond?

Western powers such as the United States expressed support for the revolution, but took little action against the Soviet Union – having no desire to risk confrontation with a nuclear-armed superpower. Meanwhile, a recent disastrous Anglo-French attack on Egypt (known as the Suez Crisis) made it difficult for the West to criticise Soviet actions without being accused of hypocrisy.

### What was the legacy of the Hungarian Revolution?

Well over 2,000 Hungarians were killed during the uprising, and thousands more were later imprisoned or executed for having taken part. Fear and intimidation led to more than 200,000 being forced to flee the country. Two years after the revolution, Nagy was executed in secret, while Kadar, the man who replaced him, would go on to rule Hungary until 1988.

However, the revolution was not a total failure, in that the Kadar regime did introduce a number of liberal reforms during its period in office. At the same time, the Hungarian Revolution foreshadowed later revolts such as an unsuccessful uprising in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and, finally, the wave of protests that helped bring down Communist Eastern Europe – and the Soviet Union itself – from 1989–91.



### FREEDOM FIGHTERS

ABOVE: Thousands of Hungarians organised themselves into militias against the Soviet Union  
RIGHT: Imre Nagy's government ended with the suppression of the revolution





## HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

# GREAT WALL OF CHINA

The bulwarks that took two millennia to build

There are several misconceptions about the Great Wall of China, which snakes its way through the Chinese countryside. It is not a single wall, but a series of fortifications (some of which run parallel to each other), and there is no truth to the legend that the Great Wall can be seen from space. Yet it is undoubtedly one of the most impressive pieces of architecture and engineering in history – a project that was ongoing for 2,000 years.

## THE FIRST EMPEROR

Wall fortifications were first built during the seventh century BC, but when Qin Shi Huang conquered the individual Chinese kingdoms and united China – becoming the first Emperor in 221 BC – he ordered that the sections of wall be joined into one great defence.

**EMPIRE BUILDER**  
Qin also expanded China's road system and built the Terracotta Army



## A LEGENDARY PLACE

Dozens of legends surround the Great Wall. One of the most enduring is the myth of Meng Jiangnu, the wife of one of the builders who died. According to the story, when she learned of his death, she cried so hard that it caused a section of the wall to collapse.

## STILL STRONG

While some sections of the wall are in poor condition, or have been destroyed, the best preserved example of the Great Wall dates from the Ming dynasty – and runs for some 5,500 miles.

## BUILDING THE WALL

The first walls were constructed to protect individual kingdoms in China from warring neighbours. The most common construction method in the seventh century BC was 'rammed earth' – packing soil tightly into a natural bulwark. Over the centuries, the Qin wall was added to by several dynasties. During the Ming dynasty (1368–1644), fears of a Mongol invasion led to extensive rebuilding using state-of-the-art techniques.



### Qin dynasty

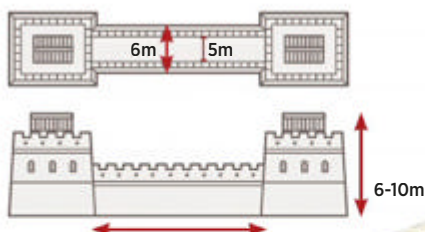
If rock from nearby mountains couldn't be collected, earth and small stones were compacted to build a natural wall.

### Han, Jin, Sui dynasties

Until the seventh century AD, various methods were adopted, including using a wooden frame to hold together a mixture of water and gravel.

### Ming dynasty

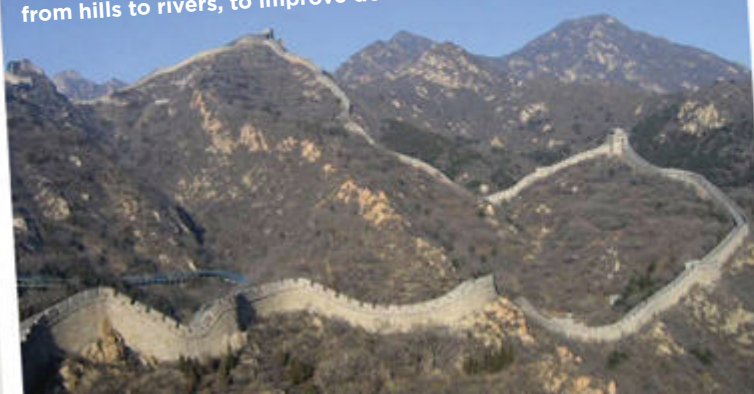
Bricks – which were stronger so could bear more weight – were increasingly used to build and repair sections of wall quickly.



Some of the towers are approximately 500 metres apart – around five football pitches

## SNAKING ALONG

The wall utilised the natural terrain, from hills to rivers, to improve defences







**Qin Dynasty** 221-206 BC  
**Ming Dynasty** 1368-1644



### THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE GREAT WALL: 13,171 miles

If you added up all the branches built throughout the Great Wall's history, then its total length would be enough to almost circle the Earth twice.

### WALK THE WALL

The most popular section for tourists is Badaling – built in the Ming dynasty

### THE BATTLEMENTS

In the Ming dynasty, detachments of soldiers were stationed in each tower, either to stand on watch for foreign invasion or to protect the traders passing through the wall on their way to the Silk Road to Europe.

### SOLID FOUNDATIONS

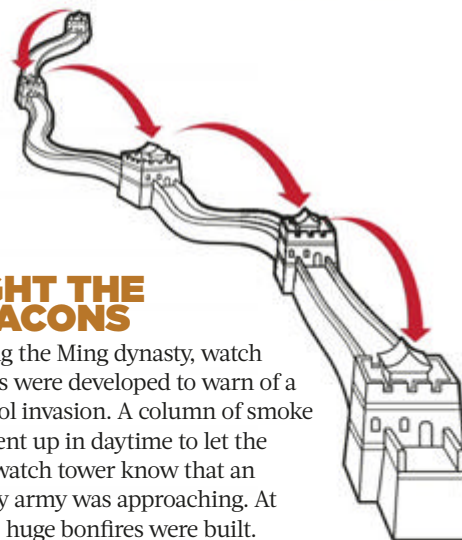
It is impossible to know how many millions of construction workers were used over the millennia to build the wall. Those who died – which could number in the hundreds of thousands – were buried in the foundations of the wall.

### REACHING HIGH

To build the watch towers, bamboo was used as scaffolding. It is so strong that it is still used in China today.

### LIGHT THE BEACONS

During the Ming dynasty, watch towers were developed to warn of a Mongol invasion. A column of smoke was sent up in daytime to let the next watch tower know that an enemy army was approaching. At night, huge bonfires were built.





## WHY DO WE SAY...



## MAD AS A HATTER



No, 'mad as a hatter' didn't originate with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. There were 'mad hatters' long before Lewis Carroll's wacky character.

Hat-making used to be surprisingly dangerous work, as the manufacture of felt involved mercury. Working in confined spaces, hatters couldn't avoid coming into contact with the substance or breathing in harmful vapours. The mercury damaged their nervous systems, causing them to shake involuntarily, and affect their mood. One account said that a hatter was "easily upset and embarrassed, loses all joy in life... and may lose self-control". The afflicted would lose coordination and memory, while growing nervous, irritable and dizzy. It wasn't until the 20th century that the risks of mercury poisoning (still known as Mad Hatter's disease today) forced changes in the hat-making industry.

The real mad hatters, however, weren't the inspiration for Carroll. Instead, it may have been an eccentric furniture dealer and inventor always seen in a top hat, Theophilus Carter. Among his creations was an 'alarm clock bed' – think Wallace and Gromit – which woke sleepers by tipping over.

### YOU'RE BARRED!

All barristers in England and Wales must belong to one of the four Inns of Court, including Middle Temple Hall

### ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Anyone arriving in Ancient Alexandria was immediately searched for literature. All scrolls, parchments or books were confiscated and sent to the Great Library and the previous owner received a cheaply made copy as compensation.

45

The amount, in kilos, of scurvy-stopping sauerkraut with lime juice taken on Captain Cook's 1768-71 circumnavigation.

### TOIL AND TROUBLE

Another way to undo the curse is by reciting lines from other Shakespeare plays

## Why do actors not refer to the Shakespeare play *Macbeth* by name?



Strictly speaking, the superstition states that actors must not utter the name 'Macbeth' in a theatre. If they do, the show currently on at that theatre will soon close.

The only way to avoid the curse is to leave the theatre, walk around it three times, spit over your left shoulder

and curse. Others believe that merely spinning around on the spot three times and spitting will suffice.

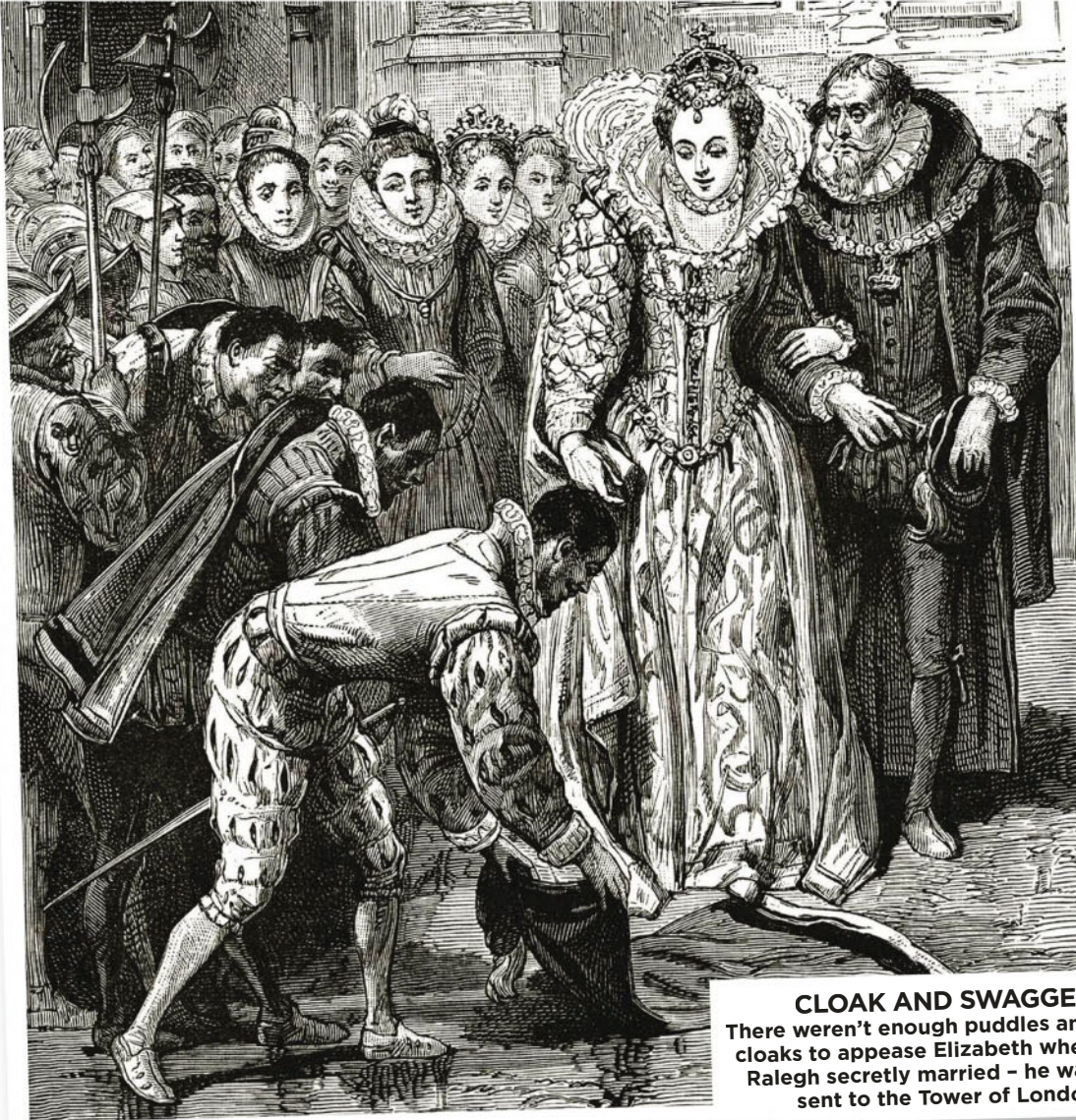
It is usual, therefore, for theatrical folk to refer to 'the Scottish play', rather than name it. The most popular explanation is that Shakespeare used real spells revealed by real witches when writing the play. The witches were so angry at having their secrets revealed, it is claimed, that they cursed the play and its name. However, there is little evidence for the superstition before the later 18th century, so its true origins are a mystery. RM

## Why are barristers 'called to the bar'?



It was during the 13th century that lawyers were first appointed to plead for a plaintiff in the King's Courts. Then, on the fall of the Knights Templars in the 14th century, the lawyers moved into their London premises and the four great Inns of Court – Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, Inner and Middle Temple – became the centre of the English legal system. Gradually, the profession grew in reputation and traditions set in. One of those involved the most highly qualified practitioners being 'called' to the highest place in the court room – a railing or bar separating officials from public. The Inns of Court each had such a partition, which students symbolically crossed when they qualified, becoming 'barristers'. SL





**CLOAK AND SWAGGER**  
There weren't enough puddles and cloaks to appease Elizabeth when Raleigh secretly married - he was sent to the Tower of London

## DID RALEGH REALLY LAY DOWN HIS CLOAK FOR ELIZABETH I?

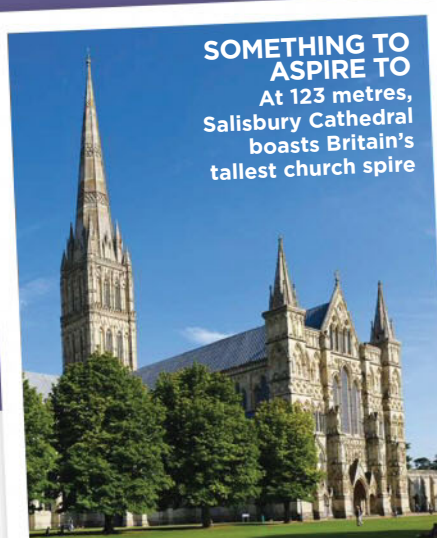
🎯 Dashing explorer and poet Walter Raleigh enjoyed the favour of Queen Elizabeth I soon after settling at court in 1581. A testament to his gallantry and style can be seen in the well-known incident when Raleigh rescued the royal feet from getting wet and muddy in 'a plashy place' by sacrificing his plush velvet cloak to cover

the puddle. Disappointingly, his cloak-laying is first recorded in Thomas Fuller's *History of the Worthies of England*, published some 80 years after the supposed event. True or not, Raleigh enchanted the Queen and was one of her firm favourites - that is, until he fell from grace by secretly marrying one of her maids of honour. **EB**

## WHY DO CHURCHES HAVE SPIRES?

🎯 Spires, the tall point on top of a tower, first started to be built in the middle of the 12th century, with the earliest examples being found in northern France. They spread rapidly across parts of Europe and the British Isles, but never really caught on south of the Alps.

Officially, the idea of the spire was that it lifted eyes toward Heaven, and so encouraged the contemplation of God. More prosaically, the building of an expensive spire advertised the wealth of the village or town where the church stood. As so often in medieval Europe, civic pride and religious devotion went hand in hand. **RM**



**SOMETHING TO ASPIRE TO**  
At 123 metres, Salisbury Cathedral boasts Britain's tallest church spire

## WHAT IS IT?

🎯 To say that this object is currently housed at Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy, is to give a strong point towards what it is. Atop an alabaster column, and protected in a glass egg, is the middle finger from the right hand of the brilliant Italian astronomer and scientist, Galileo.

The digit was detached in 1737, 95 years after Galileo's death, when his body was being reburied in a lavish new tomb. At the same time, two other fingers and a tooth belonging to the great man were pilfered by his admirers. As a mark of respect, an exquisite case was designed for Galileo's finger, with the inscription:

"This is the finger, belonging to the illustrious hand that ran through the skies, pointing at the immense space and singling out new stars." [www.museogalileo.it/en/visit.html](http://www.museogalileo.it/en/visit.html)



### GIVING THE FINGER

The astronomer's finger will always point at the stars

## NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Wondering about a particular historical happening? Don't rack your brains - our expert panel has the answer, so get in touch

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**FLAMES OF WAR**

The wooden Roman ships were **extremely vulnerable** to fire – as Antony's men discovered to their cost at the end of the battle.

# Downfall of Antony and Cleopatra

**Julian Humphrys** explains how the **Battle of Actium**, off the Greek coast, led both to the end of the Roman Republic and to the suicides of history's most famous lovers...

**A**ntony's campaign to become sole ruler of Rome was crumbling. By the summer of 31 BC, his fleet was trapped in the Ambracian Gulf, on the west coast of Greece, by the ships of his enemy, Octavian. He was chronically short of men, and the spot where his army was camped was a mosquito-infested marsh near Actium, on the south shore of the gulf. Their every move was being watched by Octavian's





**SMOKE ON  
THE WATER**  
Octavian's men rain  
down fire on Antony's  
withering fleet

**FLOATING  
FORTRESS**

The larger ships in both navies were fitted with wooden towers and **giant crossbows** called *ballistae*.

**BATTLE CONTEXT**

**Who**

**Octavian and Agrippa:**

400 ships

**Antony and Cleopatra:**

500 ships, reduced to 230

**When**

2 September 31 BC

**Where**

Ionian Sea near Actium, off the west coast of Greece

**Why**

Antony and Cleopatra were attempting to break through Octavian's naval blockade

**Outcome**

Victory for Octavian. Antony and Cleopatra escaped with their treasure but lost most of their ships

**Losses**

**Octavian:** unknown

**Antony:** at least 150 ships destroyed or captured

men from the high ground on the opposite shore. Supplies were running out, malaria and dysentery were decimating his army, and the oarsmen who powered his ships were starting to desert. Antony had to make a move, and soon – if he didn't, before long he'd have no forces with which to fight.

The Battle of Actium was the climax of 13 years of civil wars. Sparked by the assassination of Julius Caesar, they had torn the Roman world apart. Caesar's heir, Octavian, and his former right-

hand man, Antony, had been two-thirds of the triumvirate, which, in 42 BC, brought down Caesar's murderers. But once that common enemy had been tackled, their fragile alliance began to fracture and the two became bitter enemies.

Octavian's power base was in the western part of the Roman territories, while Antony controlled the eastern part – with the aid of his lover, Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. That relationship gave Antony access to the riches of Egypt but it also scandalised

Rome, a situation exacerbated by the fact that Antony had abandoned his Roman wife – who, significantly, was also Octavian's sister. Octavian's propaganda machine was soon hard at work, portraying the struggle not as one between him and Antony but as a war between virtuous Rome and decadent Egypt.

**TIME FOR ACTION**

In 32 BC, Antony and Cleopatra relocated their forces to the Ambracian Gulf. With a powerful



navy numbering some 500 ships, they probably hoped to lure Octavian and his forces into Greece, before destroying his fleet in a pitched battle, thus cutting his supply lines. If so, the ploy worked. Octavian crossed into Greece with a large army. Disastrously for Antony, however, sickness ravaged his forces. Much of his land army was unfit for battle, and he could muster crews for barely half his fleet. Meanwhile, Octavian's loyal general Marcus Agrippa led his own fleet along the coast, capturing key bases. Soon it was Antony and Cleopatra who found themselves cut off near Actium.

## SHIP OUT

Antony made a foray to outflank Octavian's army by marching round the Ambracian Gulf, but his efforts came to nothing. He was left with no choice but to abandon Greece, loading up his treasure, embarking as many of

his soldiers onto his ships as he could and attempting to break through Octavian's naval blockade. He would then, he hoped, pick up the prevailing wind, sail round the Peloponnese and make for Egypt.

Ordering the rest of his army north to Macedonia, Antony readied his fleet – burning many ships for which he no longer had crews – and waited for the weather, which had been stormy for some days, to improve. On 2 September his chance came. At about noon, he moved his ships out of the gulf and into the open sea – where Octavian and Agrippa waited for them, backing up to give themselves enough room to manoeuvre.

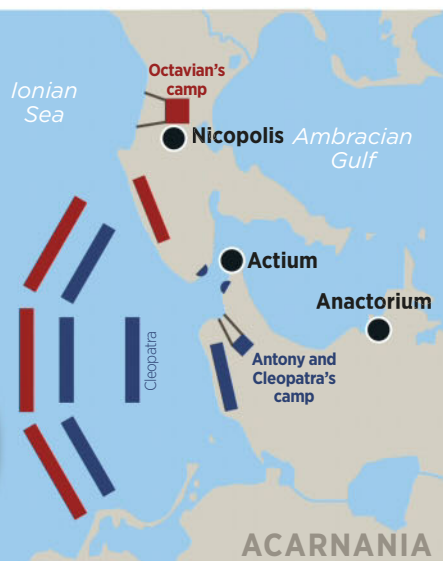
As the sweating oarsmen below decks hauled away, the two fleets began to close in on each other. Up on deck, archers drew their bows and those manning the *ballistae* (huge crossbows) stood

**170**  
Oarsmen served on board a Roman trireme

## BATTLE OF ACTIUM

Octavian's forces  
Antony's forces  
Costal fortification  
Walls

0 10 miles



## KEY PLAYERS

Three ambitious leaders stood at the centre of this naval clash. All would survive, but only one would win...

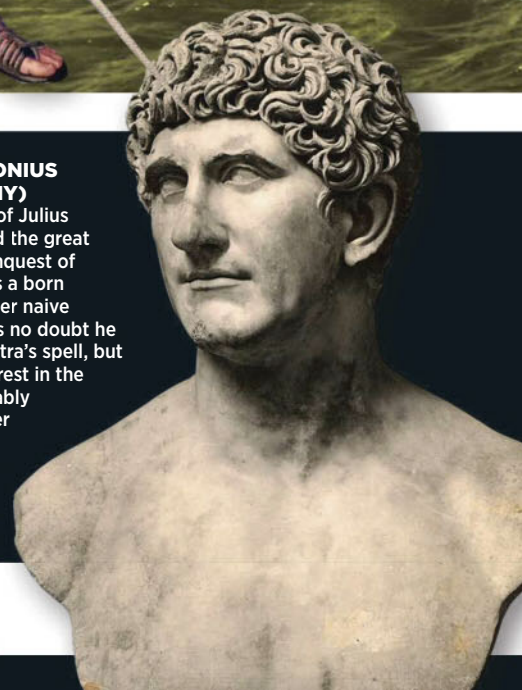


### GAIUS JULIUS OCTAVIUS (OCTAVIAN)

Julius Caesar's great-nephew, named by Caesar as his adopted son and heir; later known as Augustus. The two couldn't have been more different: Caesar was bold, impetuous and an inspiring leader, whereas Octavian was careful, methodical and an effective delegator. *Festina Lente* ('Make haste slowly') was his watchword. He was no great general but his old friend Marcus Agrippa was an able soldier, and commanded his forces.

### MARCUS ANTONIUS (MARK ANTONY)

A key supporter of Julius Caesar, he helped the great general in his conquest of Gaul. Antony was a born soldier but a rather naive politician. There's no doubt he fell under Cleopatra's spell, but his romantic interest in the Queen was probably heightened by her great wealth and the resources available to her.



## BATTLESHIPS

When the arrows started to fly that fateful September day, the war ships became cutthroat places to be – literally. The conflict came down to savage hand-to-hand combat as much as tactical decisions and positions.

### SOLDIERS

Roman soldiers may be famed for their discipline, but their naval counterparts were just as regimented. In the heat of battle, the marines had to stick to their stations – if not, they risked destabilising their ship – until the time came to board an enemy vessel.

### BALLISTAE

These huge crossbows were developed from torsion weapons, which first appeared in Greece in the fourth century BC. The Romans made the weapons ever more efficient, accurate and stable. By the time of Actium, they could wreak devastation upon an enemy.



### ROMAN SOLDIER

He carries a *pilum* (javelin), a *gladius* (short stabbing sword) and a *scutum* (shield).

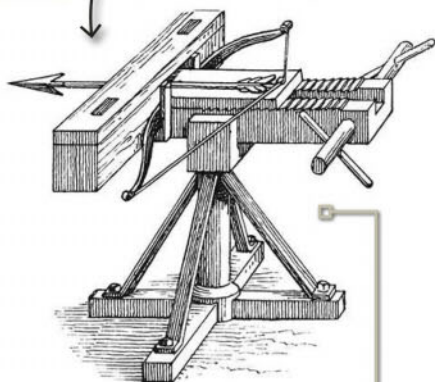
### ARMOUR

The segmented metal armour we associate with Roman soldiers was probably not adopted for another 25 years. Some soldiers on ship may have worn lighter leather armour.



### BALLISTA

A colossal crossbow used to shoot grappling hooks to ensnare enemy ships, or bolts and stones at the soldiers on board.



### SAILS

These were normally lowered and stowed away before combat but, at Actium, Antony and Cleopatra went into battle with theirs in place.

### TOWER

A collapsible structure, which provided an elevated shooting position for archers or a ballista (see left).



### STEERING OAR

An oversized oar, controlled by the 'helmsman' or gubernator.

### RAM

This would either have been pointed, to punch a hole in an enemy ship, or blunt, to deliver a pounding blow. It was sometimes removed from a captured ship and displayed as a trophy.

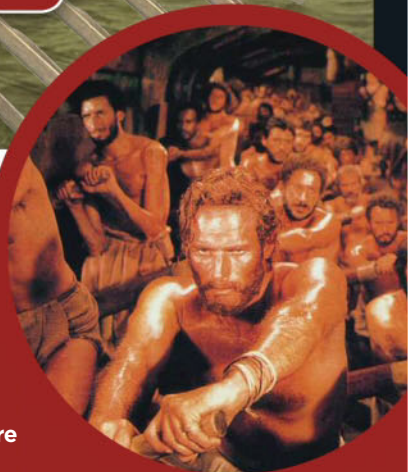
### OARS

This vessel is a *Liburnian*. A light ship with two banks of oars, it was often used for patrolling and raiding.

## LIFE BELOW DECK

Films such as *Ben-Hur* give the impression that Roman ships were crewed by slaves, chained to their oars. In fact, though oarsmen were usually recruited from the lower ranks of society, they were freemen who were paid for their work. Conditions were cramped and unhygienic – keeping men cooped up like this for long periods was a recipe for the outbreak of disease – so the ships tended to keep close to shore, allowing the crews to disembark whenever possible. The decks above would be crowded with fighting men ready to board an enemy ship or repel attempts to board their own.

Oarsmen rowed into battle in an enclosed world, with little idea what was going on outside. If their ship started to sink or caught fire, there was a very real chance that they'd be trapped. But even then they dared not move: a sudden shift of weight could fatally unbalance a vessel, causing it to keel over and capsize – so, they had to stay where they were, even under fire.



### HEAVE-HUR

Charlton Heston pulls his own in *Ben-Hur* (1959)

### CLEOPATRA VII

A member of the Ptolemaic dynasty, a family of Greek origin who had ruled Egypt for nearly 300 years, Cleopatra infamously had love affairs with both Julius Caesar and then Antony. Indeed, she bore them both children. Though Octavian's PR machine portrayed her as a decadent oriental seductress and the implacable enemy of Rome, Cleopatra's main priority was to ensure the survival of her dynasty and the independence of Egypt.





## COINING IT IN

The three leaders at war in this battle knew all about the power of cash. As well as their financial value, coins were important tools of propaganda, used to publicise and commemorate the rulers' victories



### SHIP CHIPS

Like many Roman coins, this example from Antony's rule shows a ship on the reverse. The Romans often tossed coins as we do, but rather than saying 'heads or tails' they'd say "*capita aut navia*" – "heads or ships".



### CROCODILE CASH

This coin was minted to commemorate Octavian's capture of Egypt, which is symbolised by a crocodile.

### THE QUEEN'S NOSE

This rather unflattering portrait of Cleopatra, with its hook nose, was not meant to be a likeness – it was common for consorts to be portrayed in the same way as their husbands.

ready to shoot; waiting soldiers gripped their weapons and offered silent prayers that they might not become the victims of enemy missiles. The ships' prows were fitted with rams, but by this era ramming was a comparatively rare occurrence. Instead, helmsmen tried to manoeuvre their vessels into an advantageous position while soldiers rained arrows, javelins and ballista bolts into the ranks of their enemies, while waiting for an opportunity to board the opponent's vessels.

Antony was drastically outnumbered. His fleet, reduced by his own hand, now numbered 230 ships compared with Octavian's 400. True, many of his vessels were quinqueremes, formidable warships powered by hundreds of oarsmen and sporting high wooden towers packed with archers. But such ships were slow, and Octavian's advantage in numbers soon began to tell. As the navies clashed and hand-to-hand fighting surged across the decks, some of Octavian's ships began to work their way around the flanks of Antony's smaller fleet. To counter this, and to avoid being

completely encircled, Antony's own ships edged sideways as well – creating a gap in the very centre of the line of battle.

Cleopatra made her move. The galleys under her command had been waiting in reserve, guarding transport ships laden with treasure. Now, she ordered them to hoist their sails and make straight for the gap, quickly escaping from the gulf and getting clean away. Antony followed in hot pursuit. Abandoning his flagship for a smaller, lighter craft, he sailed after his lover, followed by a handful of galleys that escaped the fighting.

Octavian's ships gave chase, and the men on Antony's fleeing vessels frantically tried to make

Eventually, Octavian's fleet gave up the chase. Their leader would later claim that Cleopatra had sailed off in a panic, and that Antony had abandoned his comrades in order to slavishly follow his lover. In fact, it seems far more likely that this had been a pre-planned gambit, employed to rescue Antony's treasure and escape with as many ships as possible.

### FUTILE RESISTANCE

Antony's wealth was safe – but most of his fleet, left behind at the gulf, had been abandoned to its fate. Anxious to preserve these ships and their crews for his own use, Octavian sailed from vessel to vessel, shouting that Antony had fled and pointing out the futility of further resistance. Not all of Antony's crews were convinced.

As Octavian's men approached, expecting to board the defeated ships and accept their surrender, they found themselves driven back by a barrage of missiles.

Unwilling to risk their lives now that the victory had been won, Octavian's men resorted to



**100,000**

Veteran soldiers were paid off with full bounties at the end of the war

### IN THE WINGS

Cleopatra waits for the opportune moment to launch her ships

## Soldiers rained arrows, javelins and ballista bolts into the ranks of their enemies

them lighter and faster. Towers, catapults, weapons and non-essential equipment were all hastily dumped into the sea; anything that might slow them down was thrown overboard in a desperate bid to enable the ships to outrun their pursuers.

incineration. They circled Antony's doomed ships, bombarding them with flaming javelins and burning arrows. Fanned by a stiff breeze, fires quickly spread through the wooden vessels – but even then, with their ships ablaze, some of Antony's men refused to surrender. One account says that, when they ran out of water to put out the fires, they tried to smother the flames with the bodies of their dead comrades. But at about 4pm, the weather took a turn for the worse and, faced with the risk of capsizing and drowning as well as burning alive, the survivors finally gave up the fight. Antony's mighty fleet had been all but destroyed. ○





**BY THE SWORD**  
Richard Burton's Antony  
clashes swords with the  
enemy in *Cleopatra* (1963)



**FIRE FIGHTERS**  
At the end of the clash,  
Octavian's men set Antony's  
remaining ships ablaze

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Time is running out for Antony and Cleopatra

When news of the battle reached Antony's eastern allies, most of them abandoned him while the army he'd sent to Macedonia also defected. He retreated with some 60 ships to the fragile safety of Alexandria in Egypt. But the following summer, Octavian invaded. Deserted by his allies and his surviving troops, Antony committed suicide. Egypt was

swallowed up by Octavian's empire and, unwilling to face the humiliation of being paraded through Rome in Octavian's triumphal procession, Cleopatra also killed herself.

Octavian, now undisputed master of the Roman world, introduced a series of reforms that gave him control over all aspects of government. Abolishing the old republic, he



**A POISON BITE**  
The classic belief is that  
Cleopatra took her life with  
an asp's strike

declared himself Emperor for life. Taking the name Augustus, which means lofty or serene, he ruled for over 40 years, until his death in AD 14.

## GET HOOKED!

Find out more about the  
battle and those involved

### HISTORIC HOLIDAY

Octavian founded the city of Nicopolis after the battle. It's overlooked by the remains of a huge monument built on the site of his camp. You can still see the sockets into which the captured rams from Antony's ships were fitted.



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Was escape Antony and Cleopatra's aim all  
along, or did they flee upon failure?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)





## AT A GLANCE

From 1892 to 1954, a small, mostly man-made island in the middle of New York Harbor acted as the largest immigration processing centre in the United States. In those six decades, some 12 million people arrived at Ellis Island – in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty – with a dream of making new lives for themselves in the land of opportunity. Most were in and out within a few hours, but others had to wait days, even weeks, to find out whether they would enter America or face deportation. For that reason, Ellis Island became known as ‘the island of hope, the island of tears’.

# COMING TO AMERICA

New York's Ellis Island immigration centre was the first – and, in many cases, the last – foothold in America for millions of hopeful immigrants...





# THE NEW WORLD

After rough sea voyages on crowded ships, immigrants are still not quite in the 'Land of the Free'...



## HUDDLED MASSES

### ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

By the late 19th century, more of the immigrants are coming from southern and eastern Europe – escaping war, disease, poverty and political oppression. The influx of Jews, who faced severe religious persecution, also rises dramatically.



## BORDER PATROL

### SIX-SECOND MEDICAL EXAM

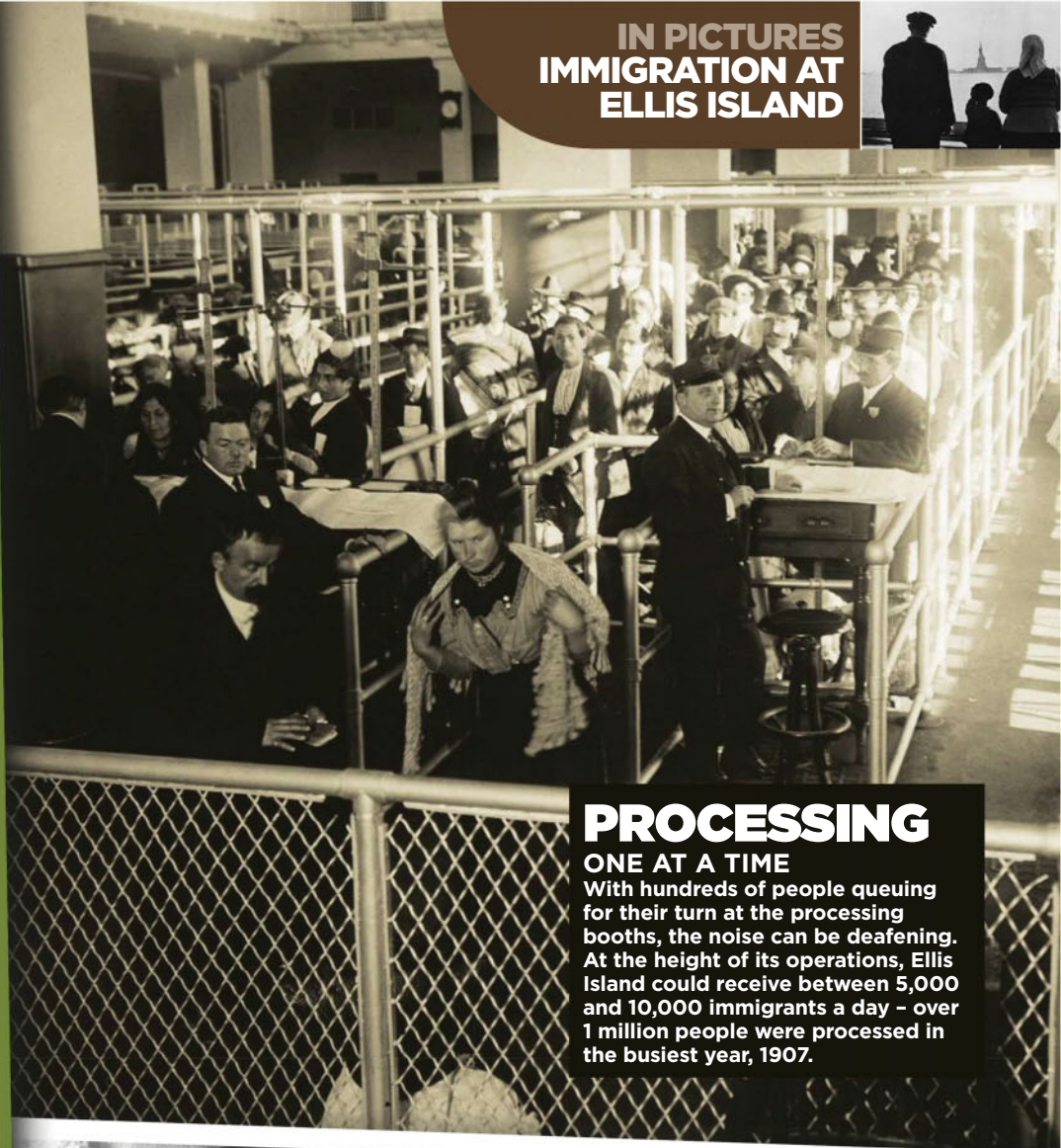
On arrival at Ellis Island, everyone is given a cursory inspection for visible ailments – as well as an eye condition called trachoma, which involves a painful procedure. Those who fail the 'six-second medical exam' are marked with chalk to indicate that a full physical is required.

## WAITING

### SO CLOSE YET SO FAR

If they make it through the medical checks, people are taken for processing. It is nothing like the protocols today – immigrants didn't need any paperwork to enter America before 1925. Instead they are asked 29 questions – to determine name, occupation, financial assets and destination. For most, this can be over in a few hours, but some are detained or even sent back to their home country.

## IN PICTURES IMMIGRATION AT ELLIS ISLAND



## PROCESSING

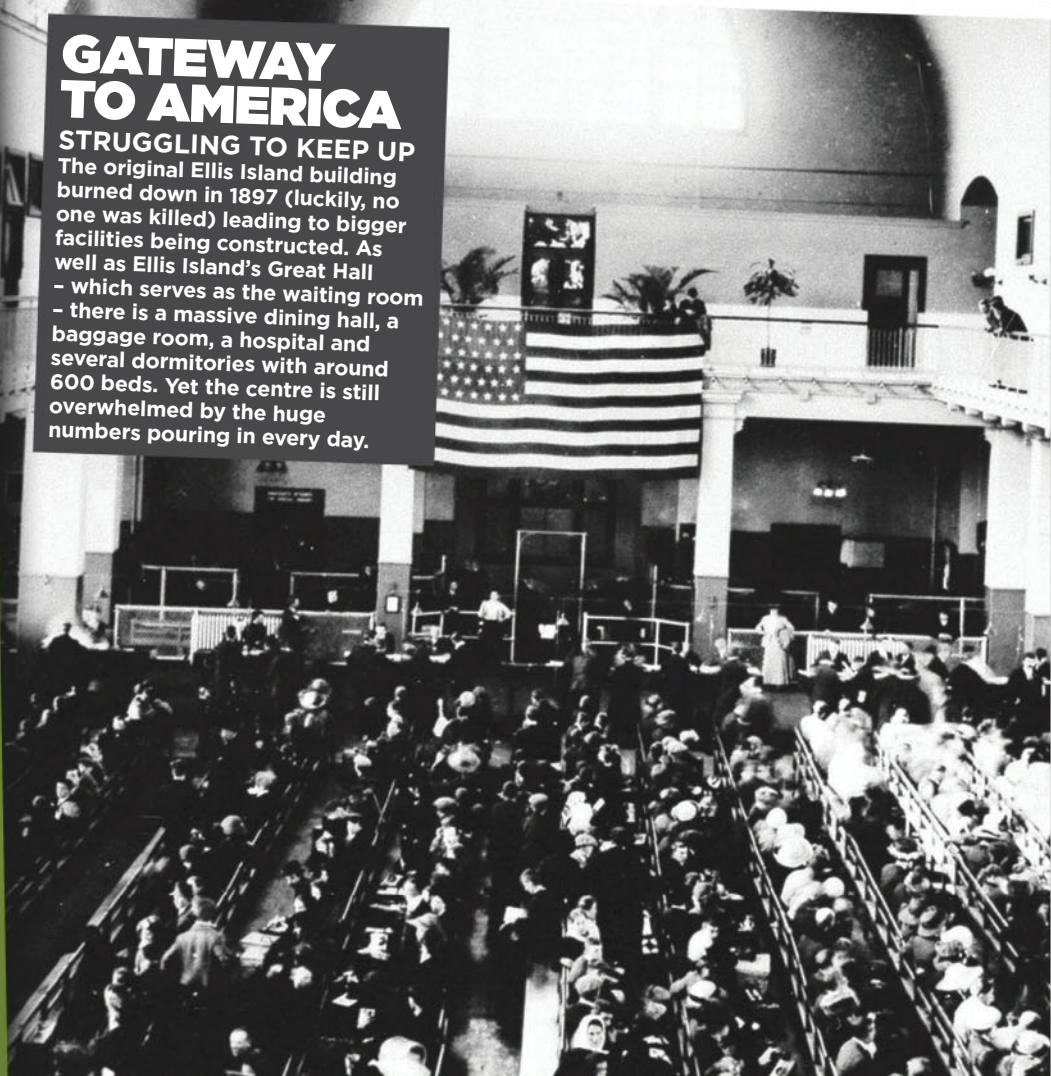
### ONE AT A TIME

With hundreds of people queuing for their turn at the processing booths, the noise can be deafening. At the height of its operations, Ellis Island could receive between 5,000 and 10,000 immigrants a day – over 1 million people were processed in the busiest year, 1907.

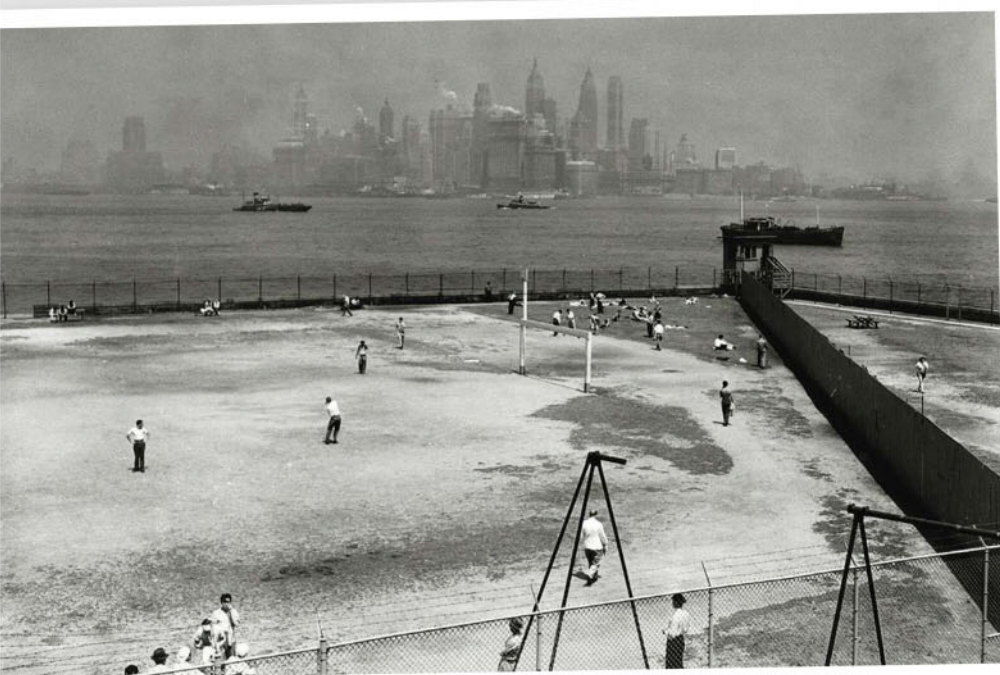
## GATEWAY TO AMERICA

### STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP

The original Ellis Island building burned down in 1897 (luckily, no one was killed) leading to bigger facilities being constructed. As well as Ellis Island's Great Hall – which serves as the waiting room – there is a massive dining hall, a baggage room, a hospital and several dormitories with around 600 beds. Yet the centre is still overwhelmed by the huge numbers pouring in every day.







## EXPANDING ELLIS

### BREAKING NEW GROUND

Detained immigrants awaiting their case to be reviewed can get some fresh air and exercise on Ellis Island's field. As the immigration centre grows, it is necessary to expand the island itself. Using landfill – much of it is soil excavated from the building of New York's subways – the island expands from 3.3 acres to 27.5.

## RAISE THE ROOF

### ON THE BANDWAGON

Sat in a wagon with 'Uncle Sam' on the side and clutching American flags, these children are starting to get to know their new home at Ellis Island's rooftop playground. These tots may be a bit young but it was quite common before 1907 for children to make the trip to Ellis Island alone. In fact, the first person to be processed, on 1 January 1892, was 17-year-old Annie Moore from Ireland.



**“GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR  
POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES  
YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE”**

THE NEW COLOSSUS, EMMA LAZARUS



## CHILD CARE

Parents would risk everything to get to America so that their children would have a better future...



## BORN FREE

### THE NEXT GENERATION

As his mother looks on, a young boy is bathed by one of Ellis Island's hardworking social workers. During the years that Ellis Island was open, more than 350 babies were born there - pregnant women would be cared for in the centre's hospital.



## LOYAL TO AMERICA

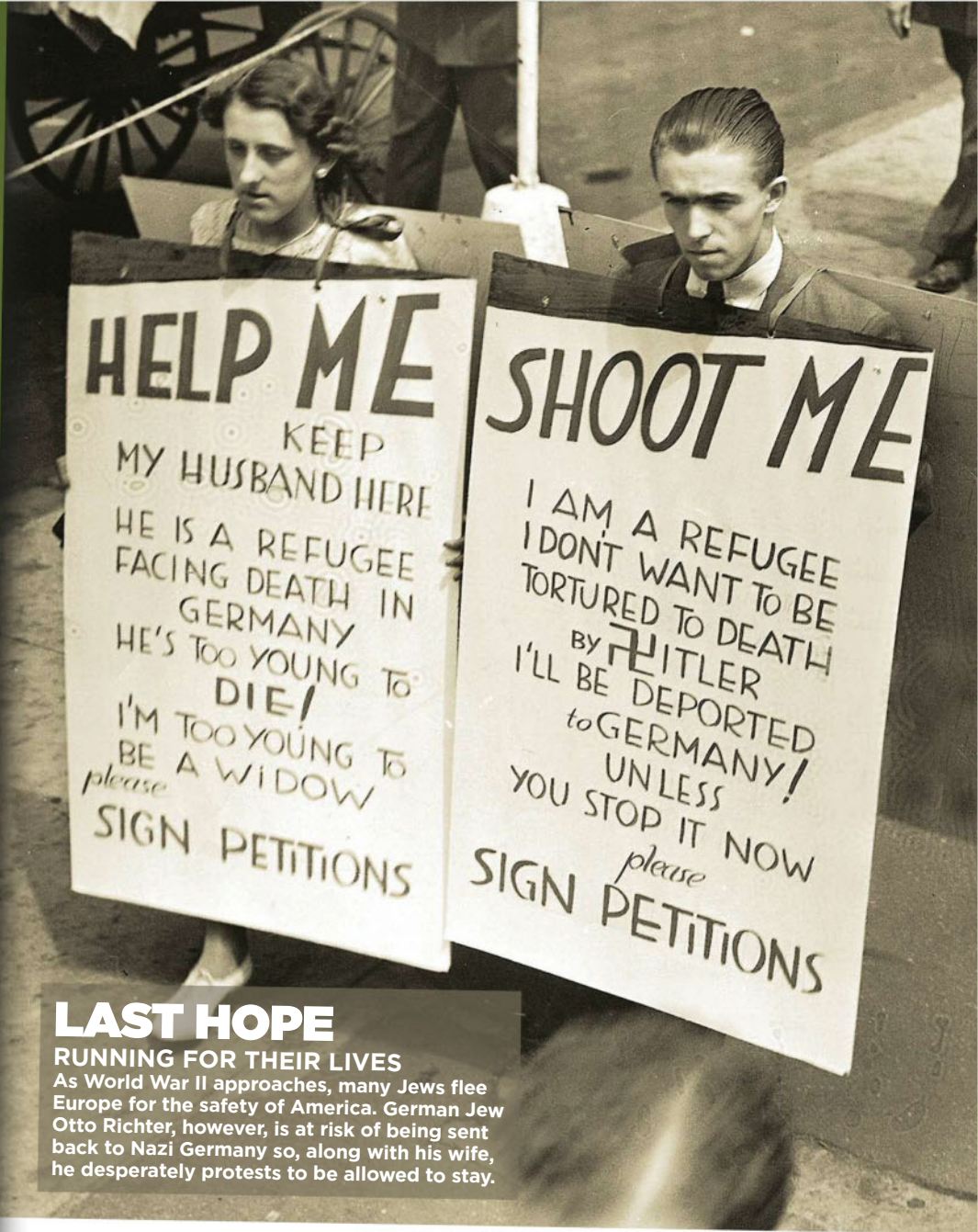
### "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE..."

A rudimentary school is opened at Ellis Island to teach the increasing numbers of children the English language and American history - giving them an advantage over their parents. They also pledge allegiance to the American flag.

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

### HOLIDAYS IN THE HARBOUR

Ellis Island is hardly the best place to spend Christmas but these children are, in some ways, the lucky ones as they have received presents. The meagre gifts include dolls and jingle bells.



## LAST HOPE

### RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES

As World War II approaches, many Jews flee Europe for the safety of America. German Jew Otto Richter, however, is at risk of being sent back to Nazi Germany so, along with his wife, he desperately protests to be allowed to stay.

## ROUND ONE

### STARS, STRIPES AND RINGS

There wasn't much in the way of entertainment on Ellis Island, so waiting immigrants had to make their own fun - including boxing matches.



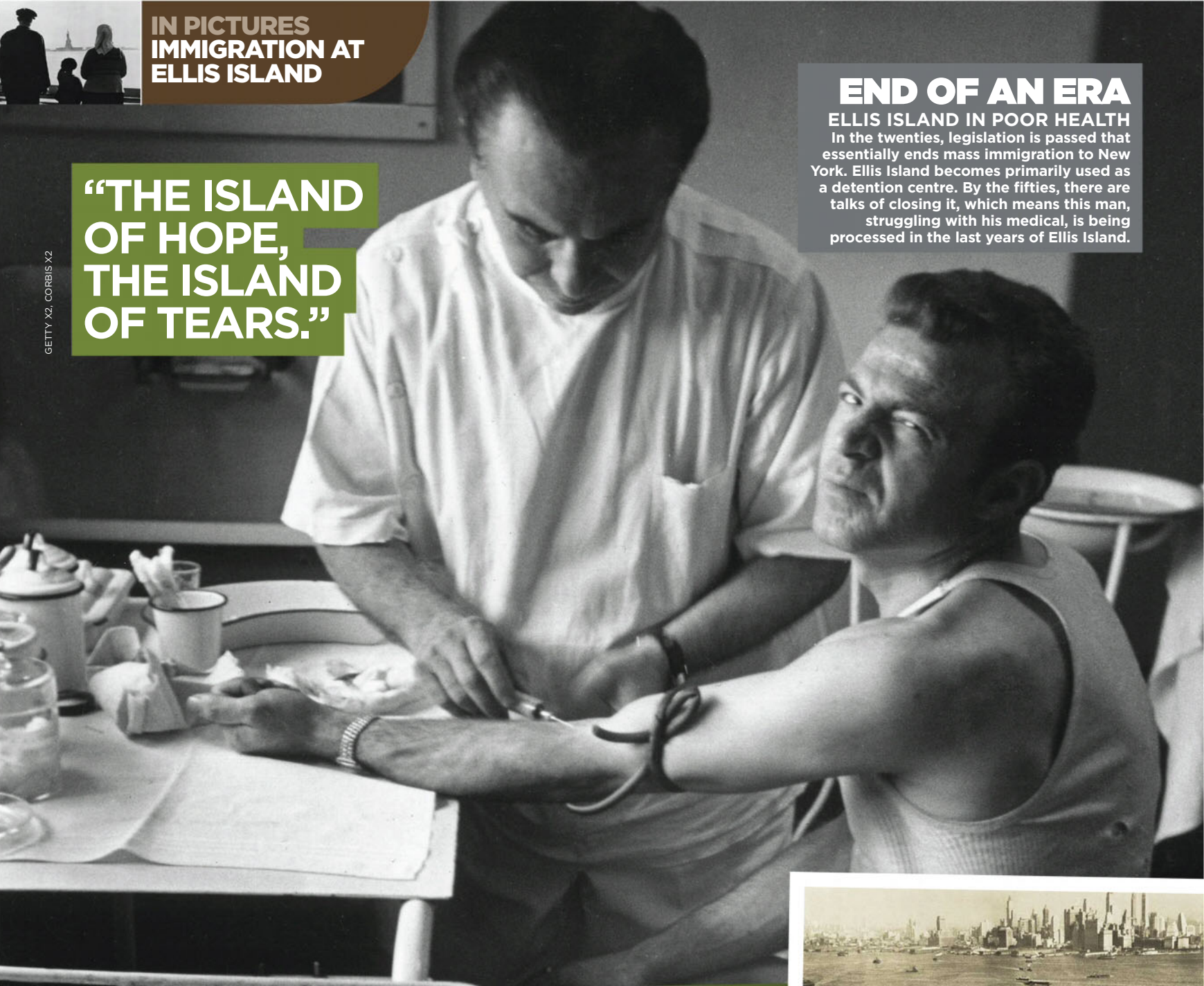




## IN PICTURES IMMIGRATION AT ELLIS ISLAND

**“THE ISLAND  
OF HOPE,  
THE ISLAND  
OF TEARS.”**

GETTY X2, CORBIS X2

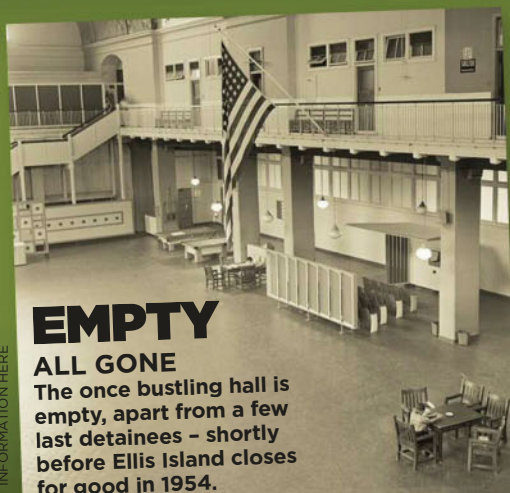


## END OF AN ERA

**ELLIS ISLAND IN POOR HEALTH**  
In the twenties, legislation is passed that essentially ends mass immigration to New York. Ellis Island becomes primarily used as a detention centre. By the fifties, there are talks of closing it, which means this man, struggling with his medical, is being processed in the last years of Ellis Island.

## THE LAST DAYS

After 62 years of operation, Ellis Island immigration centre came to an end



### EMPTY

#### ALL GONE

The once bustling hall is empty, apart from a few last detainees – shortly before Ellis Island closes for good in 1954.

## STRIP THE BEDS

### THE BIG SLEEP

Over its history, Ellis Island detains thousands of people, including German, Japanese and Italian ‘enemy aliens’ during World War II and Communists in the early fifties. After its closure, Ellis Island falls into disrepair.



## LASTING LEGACY

### HOW ELLIS ISLAND CHANGED AMERICA

As well as the famous names that pass through Ellis Island – Frank Capra, Cary Grant, Bob Hope and the von Trapp family to name a few – the 12 million immigrants shape America throughout the 20th century. It is thought that nearly 40 per cent of all Americans today can be connected to someone who was processed at Ellis Island.

CREDIT: INFORMATION HERE



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# History's greatest cities

People have always thronged to centres of civilisation, commerce and culture. But which were the most important in their day?



**ON THE THAMES**  
This 1894 view from the new Tower Bridge shows London as a bustling port



## SEVILLE

**HEYDAY:** 16th-17th centuries

The original 'empire on which the Sun never sets' grew fat on wealth flowing into Spain from the New World – and this city on the Guadalquivir River was the gateway. Already an important port, Seville blossomed during its golden age into a cosmopolitan cultural and artistic hub thanks to incoming gold, spices, exotic foodstuffs and the taxes levied on them – as well as the merchants who flocked from all over Europe.

## LONDON

**HEYDAY:** 19th century

'Londinium' first became an important settlement during Roman times. Over the centuries, its fortunes rose and fell, but between the Viking and Norman invasions, great expansion saw it become England's capital. By the 1830s, it had become the planet's largest city and would remain so until after World War I. The one-time centre of Britain's vast empire has been devastated by fire, plague and bombing over the centuries but today it remains the world's most-visited city.

## ROME

**HEYDAY:** First century AD

The Eternal City has seen many changes, since the small settlement was founded, so legend has it, in 753 BC by the wolf-reared twins Romulus and Remus. From being the heart of the noble Republic of the latter centuries BC to the centre of the empire, all roads led there – at its peak around AD 117, Rome's lands stretched from Hadrian's Wall in the north to Egypt in the south.

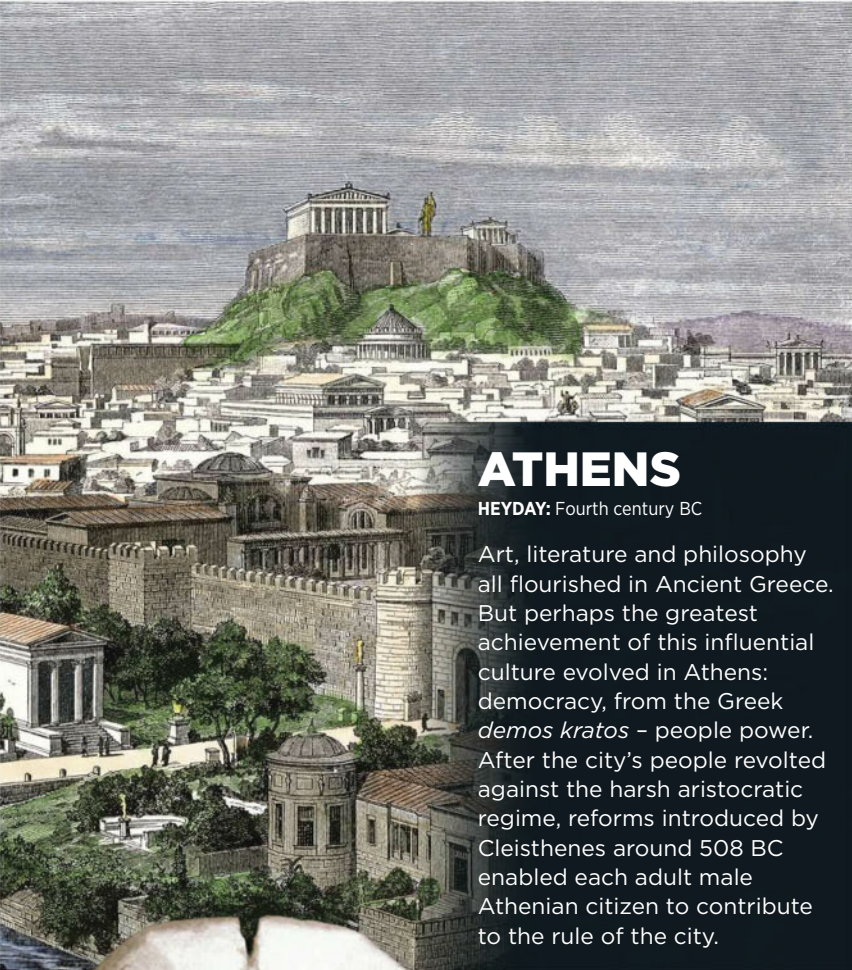


## LAKE PLACID

Hangzhou's West Lake is a UNESCO World Heritage Site







## ATHENS

**HEYDAY:** Fourth century BC

Art, literature and philosophy all flourished in Ancient Greece. But perhaps the greatest achievement of this influential culture evolved in Athens: democracy, from the Greek *demos kratos* – people power. After the city's people revolted against the harsh aristocratic regime, reforms introduced by Cleisthenes around 508 BC enabled each adult male Athenian citizen to contribute to the rule of the city.

## URUK

**HEYDAY:** Fourth millennium BC

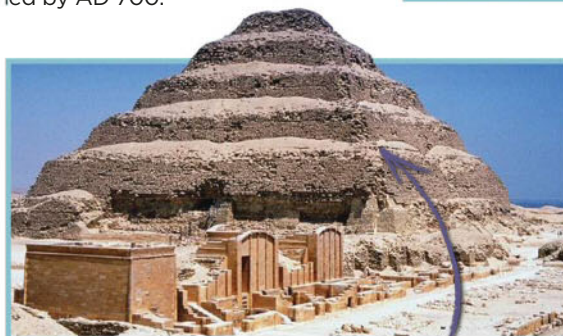
The greatest city you never heard of is probably the earliest large urban settlement on Earth. In the fertile region of Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (in modern-day Iraq), the burgeoning Sumerian civilisation developed writing, the wheel and war. By 3000 BC, Uruk was the world's biggest city, with a population of some 50,000. A change in the course of the Euphrates saw it abandoned by AD 700.



## HANGZHOU

**HEYDAY:** 13th-15th centuries

This lakeside city is known as 'Paradise on Earth' thanks to a glowing review by Venetian merchant Marco Polo, after he visited in 1290. He marvelled at the bustling, sophisticated hub. During the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the city had flourished and, by the time the European arrived, at least 1 million people were spilling out of its walls. It was ten times the size of Venice. Later, the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) saw Hangzhou become China's silk capital, ensuring its wealth and prosperity for centuries.



## MEMPHIS

**HEYDAY:** Third millennium BC

Reputedly founded by the first (and possibly mythical) Pharaoh Menes in 3000 BC, in its heyday around 2400 BC, this Egyptian port on the Nile delta was probably the world's most powerful trading centre. It was home to some 50,000 people, the most important of whom were commemorated in monumental tombs.

Pharaoh Djoser's Step Pyramid at Saqqara, near Memphis, was the world's largest building

## NEW YORK

**HEYDAY:** 20th century

The Big Apple was known as New Amsterdam until the English took control in 1664. Home to the American Revolutionary War's biggest battle in 1776, by the end of that century New York had become the country's largest city. The 19th century brought mass immigration, but it was the art, architecture, commerce and entertainment of the 20th century that saw it become the world's unofficial capital.



Before the Europeans' arrival, Broadway was the Wickquasgeck Trail, trading route of the native Lenape tribe

## BAGHDAD

**HEYDAY:** Eighth century

Founded in AD 762 by the Abbasid caliph al-Mansur as his capital, Baghdad soon became the intellectual focal point of the Islamic Golden Age – the centre of global thinking. The House of Wisdom, built by caliph Harun al-Rashid in the late eighth century, attracted philosophers and scholars, writers and mathematicians to debate, create and share ideas, and within 50 years had become the largest repository of books in the world.



### IN THE ROUND

This circular city included parks and gardens as well as a central mosque

## JERICHO

**HEYDAY:** Seventh century BC

If you'd visited this small town in the West Bank 9,000 years ago, you'd have found a thriving walled settlement atop the defensive mound later called Tell es-Sultan: arguably the world's first city. Admittedly, with a population of just 2,000, it was compact, but the area around this oasis town had already been populated since at least 9,000 BC.

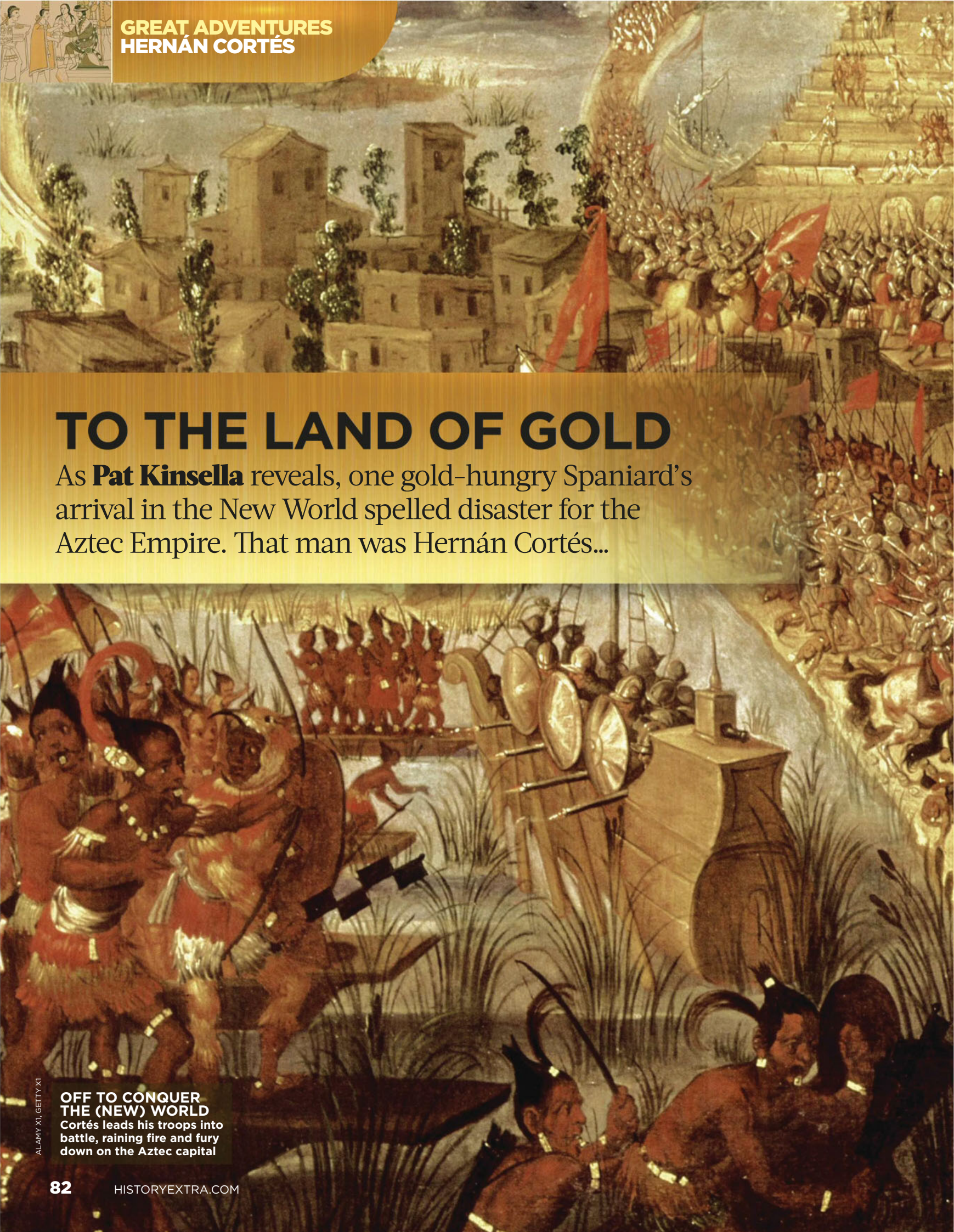


**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Cuzco, Tenochtitlan, Tokyo, Vienna and many more failed to make our cut – which historic city do you think we should have included?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)





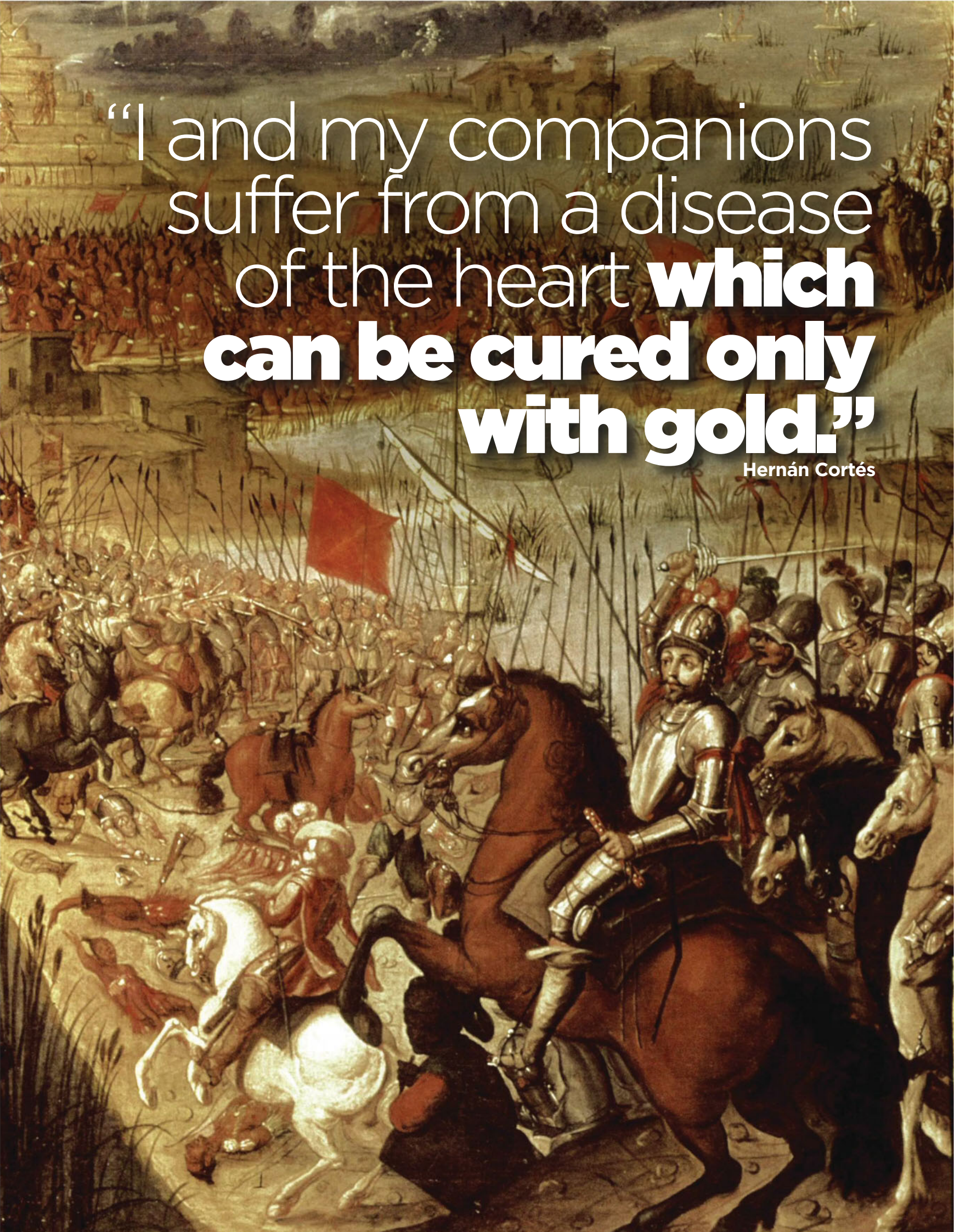
# TO THE LAND OF GOLD

As **Pat Kinsella** reveals, one gold-hungry Spaniard's arrival in the New World spelled disaster for the Aztec Empire. That man was Hernán Cortés...

OFF TO CONQUER  
THE (NEW) WORLD  
Cortés leads his troops into  
battle, raining fire and fury  
down on the Aztec capital

ALAMY XI, GETTY XI





“I and my companions  
suffer from a disease  
of the heart **which  
can be cured only  
with gold.**”

Hernán Cortés



**W**hile growing up a sickly child in the village of Medellín, Spain, Hernán Cortés's mind was filled with stories of Christopher Columbus and his discoveries in the New World.

Such tales were exciting the collective imagination of Spain in the last years of the 15th century. Indeed, he wasn't the only young Spanish boy inspired by these adventures – his generation would form the next wave of explorers, the *conquistadores* – but even by their ruthless standard, Cortés would become exceptional. He was destined to bring about the downfall of one of the largest and most sophisticated indigenous empires of the Americas: the Aztecs.

Perhaps it was in the blood – his second cousin, Francisco Pizarro, would later topple the Inca in Peru – but Cortés's extraordinary escapade began with an expedition that, by rights, should never even have departed.

## RASCAL AND REBEL

Cortés had been in the Americas for 14 years by the time he landed in Mexico, having first washed up on the island of Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) as a precocious 18 year old in 1504. He would have arrived earlier, if a nasty injury allegedly suffered while hastily escaping from the window of a lady's bedchamber hadn't made him miss his first boat. Nonetheless, a passion for something other than the opposite sex was about to be awoken in the young adventurer.

His response to Hispaniola's Governor, when given a land grant upon arrival, was a hint of what was to come: "But I came to get gold," the teenager said, "not to till the soil, like a peasant." Already, he had a hunger for New World riches, which would later turn into the full-blown gold lust that underpinned his expeditions. But initially, albeit reluctantly, he took up the role of farmer.

Within two years, he saw military action in parts of Hispaniola and Cuba, in return for which he was awarded more land and an *encomienda* – an allotment of indigenous labourers under a feudal-style system, often indistinguishable from slavery. Despite several scandals over love affairs, his social standing grew, as did his ambition.

In 1511, Cortés played a prominent role in the conquest of Cuba led by Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar. The young man had impressed his superior who, upon becoming governor, rewarded Cortés with a promotion to an important position on the island. Their relationship soon soured, however, when Cortés began a liaison with Governor Velázquez's sister-in-law, Catalina Xuárez. Although the two eventually married, Velázquez was apparently unimpressed with Cortés's conduct.

Perhaps to get rid of him, in 1518 Velázquez placed Cortés in charge of an expedition to the

## THE MAIN PLAYERS



### HERNÁN CORTÉS

Conquistador, empire toppler and Governor of New Spain 1521-4. When overlooked for another term as Governor, Cortés returned to Spain and died a bitter man in 1547.



### MONTEZUMA II

The ninth *tlatoani* (king) of the Tenochtitlan Aztecs, reigning from 1502-20, when he was either stoned to death by his own people, or killed by the Spanish – accounts vary.



### LA MALINCHE

A Nahuatl woman given to Cortés at Tabasco. She was his interpreter, advisor and mistress. In Mexico, *malinchista* is now a pejorative word for someone who prefers foreign things.

### GERONIMO DE AGUILAR

A Spanish friar who spent years marooned on the Yucatán Peninsula. When he joined Cortés's expedition in 1519, his knowledge of Mayan languages became a key advantage.

### XICOTENCATL THE YOUNGER

A Tlaxcalan warleader who pushed Cortés to the verge of defeat, until he was convinced to ally with them.

### DIEGO VELÁZQUEZ DE CUÉLLAR

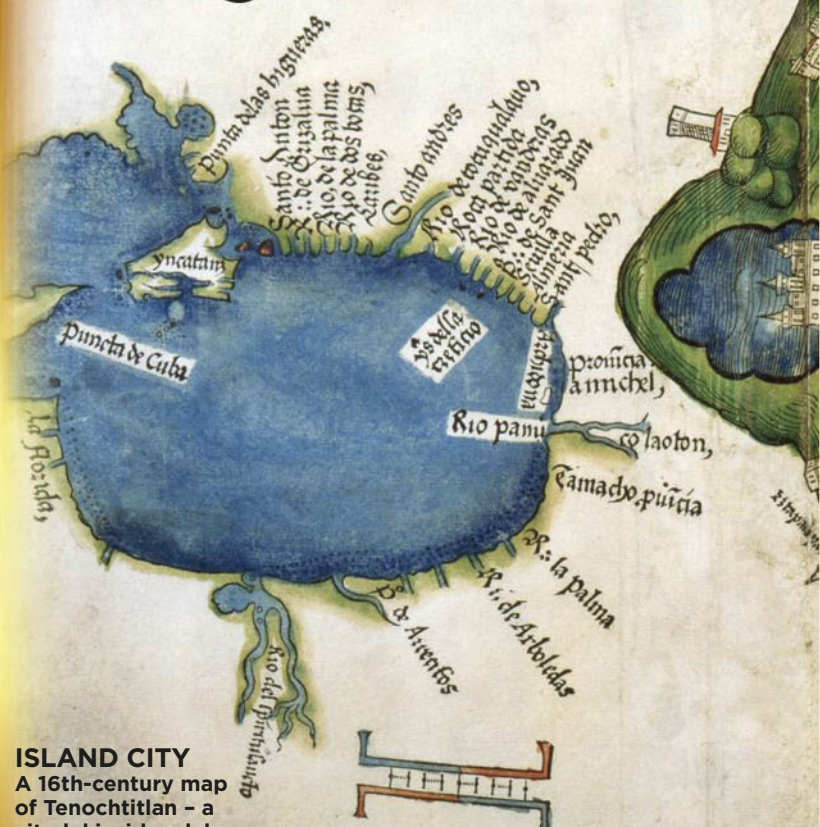
Governor of Cuba. He initially sent Cortés off to Mexico, but revoked his charter – an order which Cortés ignored.

## AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON

BELOW: With superior weapons and horses, Cortés defeats the resistance at Tabasco with ease  
RIGHT: La Malinche stands next to the seated conquistador as the Aztecs bring him gifts  
FAR RIGHT: Dumbfounded by Cortés, Montezuma II welcomes the Spaniard to Tenochtitlan



# "His hunger for riches would turn into gold lust"



**ISLAND CITY**  
A 16th-century map of Tenochtitlan – a citadel inside a lake

Quilibet punctus magnus continet leucas duodecim cum dimidia, ita quod duo magni puncti continent viginti quinque leucas, Continet autem leuca quatuordecim milia, ita quod omnes puncti qui hic continentur...



# Xaltelolco.



interior of Mexico. But almost immediately, the Governor – perhaps sensing the potential of this venture, and acutely aware of Cortés's rapacious character – changed his mind and revoked his charter.

Cortés, who'd been busy organising logistics, completely ignored the order to stand down and, in February 1519, he set sail with some 500 men and 11 ships.

## GIFT OF THE GAB

Landing on the Yucatán Peninsula, Cortés instantly struck gold, though not of the metallic kind. He heard of a bearded man living among the natives and managed to contact and recruit the fellow Spaniard, who would enable him to change the course of Mexican history. Geronimo de Aguilar was a Franciscan friar who had survived a shipwreck in 1511, and had been held by Mayan tribes ever since. During his captivity, he learned the local languages. This opened up a connection with the indigenous people, which Cortés could – and would – fully exploit.

With Aguilar aboard, Cortés sailed west to Tabasco, where he defeated some local resistance. Victorious in battle, he received 20 women from the local tribe, among them a character who would become a big player in the conquest of Mexico. La

Malinche, who later became Cortés's mistress and bore him a son, was fluent in both Chontal Maya and the language of the Nahuatl.

With Aguilar and La Malinche by his side, the conquistador had a means of communicating with the people who really held power in Mexico – the Mexica of Tenochtitlan – or, as they're better

known now, the Aztecs.

Continuing around the coast to what is now Veracruz, Cortés managed to meet with two senior Aztec figures, Tendile and Pitalpitoque, at San Juan de Ulúa. During this encounter he demanded an audience with their leader, Montezuma II, but the Aztec *tlatoani* (king) declined the request.

Undeterred, Cortés scuttled his fleet at Veracruz, to rule out any possibility of retreat and ensure his men could not abandon the expedition. Leaving a garrison of soldiers behind under the command of Gonzalo de Sandoval, he set off overland towards Tenochtitlan, a huge city-state on an island in Lake Texcoco, and the seat of Aztec power.

## THE FULL MONTE

Cortés first passed through the settlement of Cempoala, where – aided by their ability to communicate with the locals – they met little resistance. Like many tribes, the Totonacs of Cempoala had been subjugated by the Aztecs and, when they learned the Spanish intended to march on Tenochtitlan, a large contingent of warriors joined Cortés's ranks.

Further along they encountered more hostile tribes, and were forced to fight

# 150

The number of children Montezuma II is thought to have sired. Cortés himself had a child with Montezuma's eldest daughter





# GREAT ADVENTURES HERNÁN CORTÉS

several significant skirmishes against the Otomis and the Nahua Tlaxcalans in September 1519. The Tlaxcalan warleader, Xicotencatl the Younger, employed particularly sophisticated battle tactics, and pushed the Spanish to the edge of defeat. However, Maxixcatzin, ruler of Ocotelolco, convinced him to form an alliance with the conquistadors to challenge their traditional foes, the Aztecs.

In October, the Spanish entered the Aztecs' second largest city, Cholula, with around 1,000 Tlaxcalan warriors. Cortés

ordered the massacre of thousands of unarmed members of the Aztec military and nobility in the central plaza, and then left the city in flames – a clear message to Montezuma, who waited in Tenochtitlan, paralysed by indecision.

Warfare in Aztec culture was fought according to very different rules. They aimed to capture as many foes as possible, to dominate and subjugate and extend their power base, but the Spanish simply went for the kill. Montezuma didn't know how to deal with the threat, let alone the technical superiority of the Spanish. The invaders had modern weapons and terrifying animals, which included mastiff attack dogs as well as cavalry horses – utterly alien beasts.

Thus, in November, when Cortés and his forces arrived at the bridges to Tenochtitlan, Montezuma invited them into the city in peace, and even bestowed gifts of gold upon them – desperately playing for time.

This was a terrible mistake. The gold stimulated a greater greed

in the Spanish, and once inside the citadel, Cortés effectively kept Montezuma hostage, reducing him to a puppet leader. And all the while, another ally of the conquistadors was killing the indigenous groups by the thousands. The Spanish brought with them new diseases, chiefly smallpox, against which the native population of Mexico had no defence at all, and which it was decimated by.

## THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

At this crucial juncture, Cortés was forced to leave Tenochtitlan, retrace his footsteps and fight a rear-guard action against his own

### PEACE OFFERING Montezuma II presents one of many gifts of Aztec gold to Cortés



**20,000**

The number of Aztecs who fought at Otumba against a combined force of less than 1,000 Spanish and allied indigenous warriors

### 8 8 NOVEMBER 1519 Tenochtitlan

Cortés and his forces are welcomed to the Aztec capital by Montezuma II. Cortés holds Montezuma as a hostage in his own palace, making him a puppet leader.

### 9 27 MAY 1520 Cempoala

Cortés successfully launches a surprise attack against a Spanish force sent to oppose him by Governor Velázquez of Cuba.

### 10 30 JUNE– 1 JULY 1520

#### Tenochtitlan

Following a massacre, the Aztecs rebel and Montezuma is killed. Cortés and his men flee the city the following day, crossing the Tacuba causeway and suffering large losses.

### 11 7 JULY 1520

#### Otumba

Despite being outnumbered, the Spanish and their allies defeat the Aztec army – heavy losses are felt on both sides. Cortés travels to Tlaxcala to organise a war of attrition against the wobbling Aztec Empire.

### 12 26 MAY– 13 AUGUST 1521

#### Tenochtitlan

The citadel suffers an 80-day siege, which ends in defeat for the Aztecs, ruination for their empire and total victory for the Spanish, who renege on most of their promises to their indigenous allies.

### 7 OCTOBER 1519 Cholula

The conquistadors, with about 1,000 Tlaxcalteca warriors, march into Cholula, massacre thousands of Aztecs, and torch the city.

### 6 SEPTEMBER 1519 Tlaxcala

Cortés's men, with warriors of Tabasco and Cempoala, fight the Otomis and Nahua Tlaxcalans. Though nearly defeated, the Spanish get the tribes to ally with them against the Aztecs.

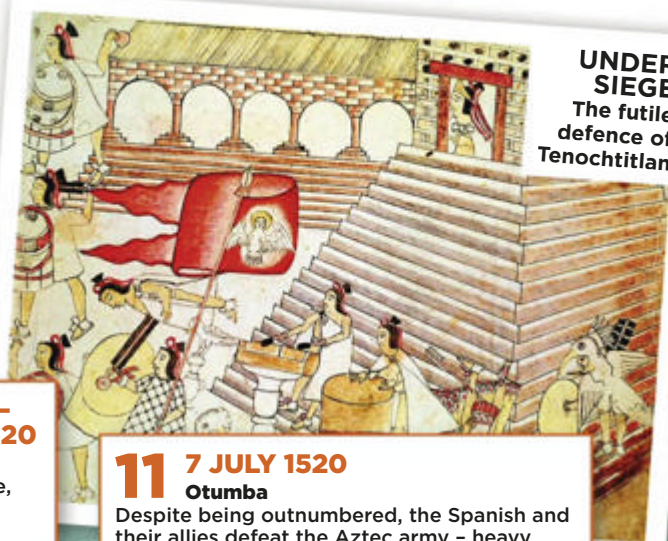
### 5 JULY 1519 Veracruz

Cortés scuttles his ships to rule out retreat and declares authority over Veracruz, placing himself directly under King Charles (bypassing the Governor of Cuba). In mid-August, leaving a garrison to defend Veracruz, he marches for Tenochtitlan.

### 4 EASTER SUNDAY 1519

#### San Juan de Ulúa

Cortés meets with senior Aztec figures Tendile and Pitalpitoque, and demands an audience with Montezuma II, which is declined.



### UNDER SIEGE The futile defence of Tenochtitlan





people. He received word from Sandoval, back at Veracruz, that his old nemesis Governor Velázquez had dispatched a new expedition, led by Pánfilo de Narváez, to oppose and depose him in Mexico.

Narváez sent messengers to warn the garrison at Veracruz to surrender, but Sandoval instead captured the men and marched them to Tenochtitlan. Cortés dazzled the messengers with wealth and filled their pockets with gold, before sending them back to spread the word. With a small attack force, aided by numerous defectors, Cortés engaged Narváez at Cempoala, defeating and capturing his pursuer. Recruiting the survivors, he hastily returned to Tenochtitlan, where he found the situation much changed.

In Cortés's absence, a terrible massacre had taken place, overseen by one of his lieutenants, Pedro de Alvarado. Montezuma had requested permission to celebrate an Aztec festival, Tóxcatl. Alvarado had granted this wish, but in the midst of the revelry, he and a gang of conquistadors brutally slaughtered some key members of Tenochtitlan society.

The bloodshed prompted a rebellion against the politically impotent Montezuma and his

façade of a reign and, on 29 June 1520, the Aztec leader was killed (either by his own people, or by the Spanish, who realised his usefulness had expired with his authority – reports differ).

The next day, the conquistadors had to fight their way out of the city during *La Noche Triste* – the Night of Sorrows. Hundreds of Spaniards died – many drowned in the lake, weighed down with gold – along with large numbers of their Tlaxcalan allies.

## END OF DAYS

The fight back was short-lived. The depleted Spanish forces regrouped on the plain of Otumba, where thousands of Aztec warriors awaited them. Despite far greater numbers, however, on the open plains the Aztecs were unable to deal with cavalry charges of the mounted Spanish troops, and were eventually defeated by the conquistadors and the Tlaxcalan army, with heavy losses on both sides.

Cortés subsequently waged a war of attrition, culminating in the horrific siege of Tenochtitlan. With supply lines cut, smallpox running rampant, and under constant attack, the city held out for 80 days, but on 13 August 1521,

the Aztec Empire was defeated. Cuauhtémoc, Montezuma II's successor and the new tlatoani, was captured. Cortés claimed Mexico for Spain, and Tenochtitlan became Mexico City. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### TRAVEL

Cortés had Tenochtitlan destroyed, but the remains of the citadel have been excavated in the midst of modern-day Mexico City. Highlights include the Great Pyramid, primarily built under Montezuma I.



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should conquistadors like Cortés be celebrated for their achievements, or condemned?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## SECOND THOUGHTS

Governor Velázquez of Cuba gives Cortés troops for the Mexico expedition, before changing his mind



### 1 FEBRUARY 1519

#### Trinidad, Cuba

In an act of open mutiny, Cortés takes on more soldiers and horses before departing Cuban shores, despite knowing that Governor Velázquez has revoked his appointment as Captain-General of the expedition to Mexico.

### 2 18 FEBRUARY 1519

#### Cozumel

While repairing the boats after a storm, Cortés hears of two bearded men living on the mainland. One is Geronimo de Aguilar, a Spanish friar who joins the expedition and whose native language skills prove invaluable. (The other whiskered chap was Gonzalo Guerrero, a stranded Spanish sailor who joined the Mayans and fought against the conquistadors.)

0 250  
Scale (miles)

### 3 25 MARCH 1519

#### Tabasco

Cortés fights his first skirmish on Mexican soil, defeating the people of Potonchán on the banks of the Tabasco River. In tribute, he is given 20 women, including La Malinche, who becomes his interpreter and mistress.

ROUTE

ROUTE (CLOSE UP)

BATTLES

DEATH OF MONTEZUMA II



# Who were les Misérables?

**Jonny Wilkes** uncovers the real disastrous rebellion that inspired the enduring musical

**T**he plight of Jean Valjean, the tragedy of Fantine and the enduring love of Marius and Cosette are well-trodden, and well-loved, stories. There have been film, television and radio productions based on Victor Hugo's sprawling and richly illustrated epic 1862 novel, *Les Misérables*, as well as the world-famous stage musical.

Since the curtains were first raised in 1980, blockbuster creations of *Les Mis* have played in the best theatres from Broadway to the West End, telling the all-singing narrative of literary hero, and spirit of human redemption, Jean Valjean. A released convict, he breaks his parole to start a new life, only to find himself entangled in the misery and political instability of 19th-century Paris. It was just a matter of time before the musical was transferred to the silver screen, and the biggest adaption came in 2012 with Tom Hooper's star-laden, award-winning and acclaimed hit.

While the plot and characters are the invention of Hugo, at the core of *Les Mis* is a real event, the June Rebellion of 1832. It is commonly mistaken to take place during the French Revolution, but the manning of the barricades seen in *Les Mis* is 40 years after King Louis XVI lost his head.

## FESTERING DISCONTENT

That said, there had been so many upheavals in the country since the start of the French Revolution that to get the situation muddled is entirely forgivable, especially as little of the complicated history makes its way into *Les Mis*. First, the monarchy was removed, violently, in 1792 – four years after the Revolution erupted with the storming of Bastille Prison, a hated symbol of royal power and corruption – but this didn't solve the problems of the French people.



Instead, France was plunged into a power vacuum.

For the next 20 years, factions fought for control while the country swung from the chaos of the Reign of Terror, where tens of thousands died at the mercy of the guillotine, to the tyranny of the First French Empire under Napoleon Bonaparte. By 1815, Napoleon had fallen following the Battle of Waterloo, and the monarchy had been restored, with the Bourbons back in power and the brother of the executed King on the throne. This, incidentally, is also the year when we first meet Jean Valjean as he reaches the end of his 19 years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread.



**“My friends, my friends, don’t ask me, what your sacrifice was for”**

MAIN: For the night of 5 June 1832, many districts of Paris were in the control of the rebels, who made makeshift barricades out of any materials they could gather  
ABOVE: Hugh Jackman as the hero of *Les Mis*, Jean Valjean  
LEFT: An engraving of a doomed barricade, taken from an 1880 edition of *Les Misérables*

Discontent among the French people festered. Every time a regime was replaced or destroyed, the new power promised to be better, but to the people, one system of oppression

and decadence was much the same as any other. And this was the case once again in 1830. Revolution broke out to overthrow the conservative and opulent Bourbon King Charles X, only for him to be supplanted by his cousin, Louis-Philippe of the House of Orleans.

Increasing poverty, rising prices and food shortages due to harvest failures were all weighing heavy on people's minds, as well as an outbreak of cholera across Europe. The poor were hit hardest, with some 18,000 dying in the French capital of Paris alone. Their anger was aimed at the government. Dissatisfaction was so high that rumours spread as quickly as the disease that the

## THE FACTS

Release date: 2012

Director:

Tom Hooper

Cast:

Hugh Jackman,  
Russell Crowe,  
Anne Hathaway,  
Eddie Redmayne,  
Samantha Barks,  
Amanda Seyfried



“To the people of France, one system of oppression and decadence was much the same as any other”

#### DIY BARRICADES

As well as using stolen wood, stone and furniture to build the barricades, **trees were uprooted** – including saplings that were planted to replace trees cut down for the same purpose in the 1830 Revolution.



“In the death of Lamarque we will kindle the flame, they will see that the day of salvation is near”

ABOVE: The rebels were organised by secret societies, similar to ‘Les Amis de l’ABC’ in *Les Mis*, where Eddie Redmayne’s Marius (second from left) discusses – or sings – the plights of the people  
LEFT: Jean Maximilien Lamarque fought in the Napoleonic Wars and was a popular Member of Parliament. His death sparked the rebellion

#### THE PEOPLE’S MAN

Lamarque despised the ‘Ancien Regime’ – the social and political stance encapsulated by the Bourbons – and **criticised King Louis-Philippe** for doing little to assuage the problems of the people.





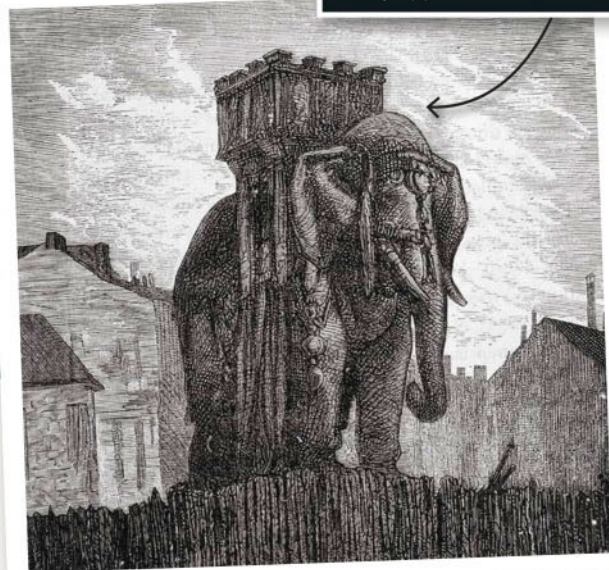


#### ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

The 24-metre elephant statue was conceived by Napoleon as a sign of his military might, but after his defeat at Waterloo in 1815, construction halted. The plaster model fell into disrepair – as seen in *Les Mis* – before being ripped down in 1846.

## “Do you hear the people sing? Singing a song of angry men? It is the music of a people, who will not be slaves again”

MAIN: Lamarque’s funeral procession was redirected by republican rebels to the site of the Bastille Prison – where the 1789 French Revolution began  
RIGHT: The ‘Elephant of the Bastille’ – as illustrated by French artist Gustave Brion – was described by *Les Mis* author Victor Hugo as “unclean, despised, repulsive and superb, ugly in the eyes of the bourgeois, melancholy in the eyes of the thinker”. The mammoth statue was never completed



French authorities were poisoning the wells in slum areas to tackle political opposition or dissent, despite no evidence that this was happening.

### REVOLUTIONARY SPARK

One of those to die from the epidemic was General Jean Maximilien Lamarque. A popular hero of the Napoleonic Wars, he had served as a member of the French Parliament and was respected by the lower classes for his outspoken support for human rights and liberties. In *Les Mis*, Lamarque is described as “the people’s man”. His death on 1 June 1832 was the spark that set revolutionary fervour ablaze once again.

Republicans struck during Lamarque’s funeral procession, on 5 June, although

they had not planned for full armed insurrection but more of a protest. French Republicans generally met in secret societies led by key figures such as the Marquis de Lafayette. The student-led society in *Les Mis*, Les Amis de l’ABC (Friends of the ABC) is a fictitious group, and none of its members existed, but it was groups such as this that disrupted Lamarque’s funeral. They intercepted the procession and redirected it to where the Bastille once stood, a moment captured in *Les Mis* with the rousing refrain: “Do you hear the people sing? Singing a song of angry men? It is the music of a people who will not be slaves again!”

At around 5pm, the first gun shots between the protestors and troops rang out, supposedly when a man in

the crowd stepped forward waving a red flag bearing the words ‘Liberty or Death’. The protest was turning into a rebellion, forcing its members to retreat to safer areas and, collecting any and all materials they could, build barricades on either side of the River Seine. Some of the dozens of barricades went up in under 15 minutes, while weapons were scavenged, from clubs to rifles looted from Paris’s gunsmiths.

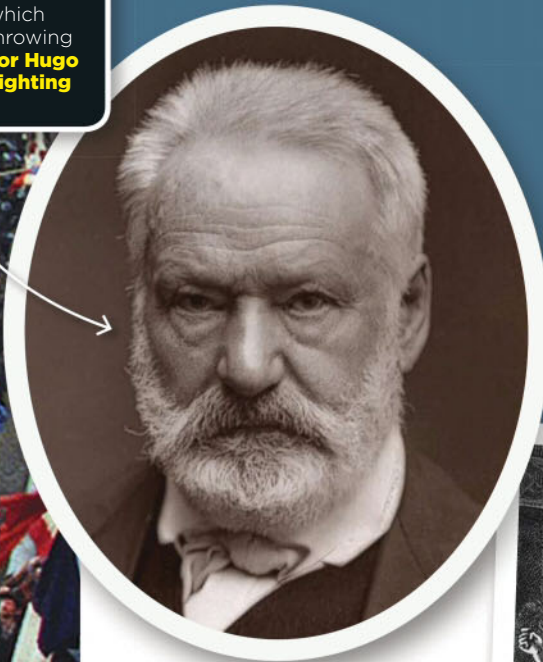
For the 3,000 or so armed and shielded rebels, it was a hopeful start.



# “The rebels were banking on the citizens of Paris joining the rebellion... this never happened”

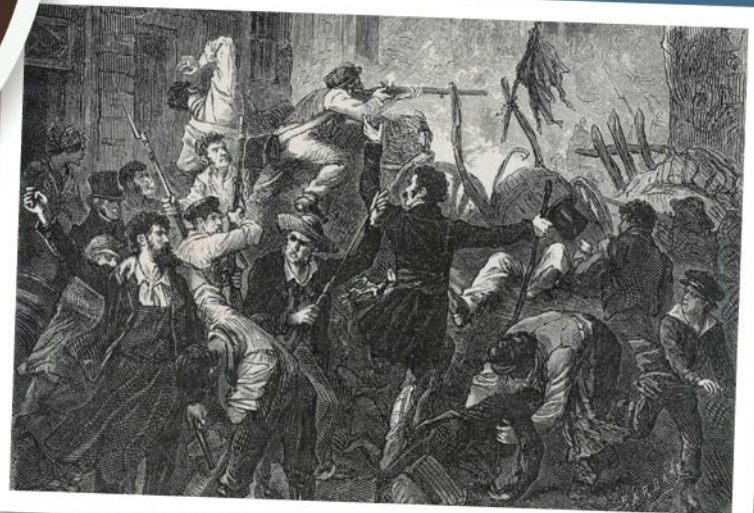
## HUGO THE HERO

When yet another revolution broke out in 1848, which succeeded in overthrowing Louis-Philippe, **Victor Hugo** was among those fighting on the barricades.



## “We strive toward a larger goal, our little lives don’t count at all”

LEFT: Victor Hugo got caught in the middle of the fighting of the June Rebellion, which inspired him to pen *Les Misérables*. It would take 30 years, however, for him to complete and publish his masterpiece  
BELOW: Barely 24 hours after the June Rebellion began, the last barricade at the Rue du Cloître Saint-Merri was surrounded by soldiers of the National Guard. Once it fell, the rebellion whimpered to an end



Republican Marius are there in *Les Mis* and are the only survivors as they escape into the sewers.

Some 800 men were killed or wounded in the 24 hours of violence and gunfire, amounting to a small percentage of the soldiers in Paris, but an overwhelming loss for the rebels. As a grief-stricken Marius cries to his fallen comrades after the smoke has cleared, “My friends, my friends, don’t ask me what your sacrifice was for”; the June Rebellion was in vain. It changed nothing and came nowhere near to threatening the monarchy as the Revolution had 40 years earlier.

Hugo decided to focus *Les Mis* on this isolated and doomed event as he was directly caught up in it. On 5 June, he had been writing in a Paris garden when he heard gunfire nearby and, instead of running away, he ran towards the noise. Taking shelter at the side of the street, he was caught in a battle – with bullets whizzing past his head before he managed to escape. If it wasn’t for Hugo’s *Les Mis*, the June Rebellion may have been completely lost from the history books. ☉

That night, they controlled whole districts of Paris, with only sporadic firefights echoing around the capital. The rebels, however, were banking on the citizens of Paris joining the rebellion, ensuring sheer weight of numbers would overwhelm the opposing soldiers. This never happened and, as quickly as it began, the rebellion lost heart. In fact, when King Louis-Philippe showed himself in the streets, he was greeted by cheers from the people.

## FLASH IN THE PAN

One by one, barricades fell as government reinforcements marched through Paris, reclaiming the streets. The army was mustered with cannons to assist the National Guard so that, by the morning of 6 June, only a handful of barricades remained. The last brave, if futile, stand at a café in central Paris lasted until the evening before it was overrun. Jean Valjean and student

## Ones to watch: French history

### *The Three Musketeers*

(Richard Lester, 1973)

A star-studded cast, swashbuckling fight sequences and a soupçon of slapstick makes this version of Dumas’ classic tales one of the best.



Alexandre Dumas’ *The Three Musketeers* has rarely been so much fun

### *Danton*

(Andrzej Wajda, 1983)

Gerard Depardieu sizzles as Danton, as he struggles to survive in revolutionary France.

### *L’Allée du Roi*

(Nina Companeez, 1996)

A gripping, entertaining

mini-series for French television about the relationships and reign of Louis XIV – the ‘Sun King’. Available on DVD.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How important is it to know the history in enjoying a production of *Les Misérables*?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

# HERE & NOW

## ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

### EXHIBITION

## Ancient Australia

To say the Aboriginal peoples have had a **rough and difficult history** is a severe understatement.

Yet, their numerous cultures, languages and identities have persevered – which is the message of a major new exhibition at the British Museum. On display will be never-before-seen objects of **Aboriginal art and tools** from the museum's collection, many of which were collected in the early days of Britain's colonisation of Australia. Among these are bark paintings (such as the barramundi fish, top right) and a shield collected from Botany Bay during **Captain Cook's visit** in 1770.

The Aboriginal peoples faced horrific persecution, but the beauty of their cultures continues to live on. **Indigenous Australia is at the British Museum, London, now and runs until 2 August.** [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)



The exhibition is thought to be the largest collection of Aboriginal culture ever held outside Australia

### ANNIVERSARY

## Landmark year

To mark its 50th year, the Landmark Trust – which restores buildings of historic interest – is planning a special **'Golden Weekend'**. Some 25 Landmark properties, including Clavell Tower (pictured), will be opened to the public. The sites were picked to ensure that **95 per cent of Britain's population** will be within 50 miles of one. **Runs 16-17 May.** [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk)

Clavell Tower  
on the visually  
stunning Jurassic  
Coast in Dorset



### FESTIVAL

## Celebrating the history of Plymouth

A host of exhibitions, tours, talks and **family fun activities** at the Plymouth History Festival. **Events throughout May. More at** [plymhistoryfest.wordpress.com](http://plymhistoryfest.wordpress.com)

### TWITTER

**Magna Carta 800th**  
[@MagnaCarta800th](https://twitter.com/MagnaCarta800th)

All the news about this important year – the 800th anniversary of the writing of **Magna Carta**. For more on Magna Carta over the past 800 years, see page 58.







## EVENT

### See art and culture in a different light

The nationwide annual festival, **Museums at Night**, returns this month. Museums, galleries and heritage sites are **throwing their doors open** after hours so that visitors can see the exhibitions in a new light. There are also plenty of special events and activities. *From 13-16 May. To find out who is taking part, go to [museumsatnight.org.uk](http://museumsatnight.org.uk)*

## EXHIBITION

### Changing how we see the world

You may not have heard of the **English geologist William Smith**, but his map of England, Wales and parts of Scotland forever changed **geology and cartography**. This exhibition is a great opportunity to explore Smith's story and the reaction to his map that changed the world. *Runs from 22 May at Yorkshire Museum, York.*



Matthias Schoenaerts and Carey Mulligan as star-crossed lovers Gabriel and Bathsheba



## FILM

### A Hardy tale

**Far from the Madding Crowd**  
In cinemas 1 May

Thomas Hardy's classic novel is given a new lease of life, **140 years** after it was first published, in this bewitching romantic drama.

Starring Carey Mulligan (*The Great Gatsby*, *Never Let Me Go*) as the beautiful and independent Bathsheba Everdene, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is a timeless story of **love, loss and life**, set in the lush countryside of Victorian England. When

Bathsheba finds herself the attention of three suitors – **a sheep farmer, a military man and rich bachelor** – she has to make difficult decisions about what she wants from life, and with whom she wants to spend it.

## TALK

### Waterloo and Wellington

Among the many events marking 200 years since Waterloo, is a fascinating lecture series at **Apsley House**, the London townhouse of the Dukes of Wellington. *Lectures on 5, 6 and 11 May. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/apsley-house/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/apsley-house/)*

## APP

**Timeline World War II**  
£9.99/Ballista

A definitive day-by-day history of World War II, complete with detailed maps, presented by **Dan Snow**.

## EXHIBITION

### Liverpool's unsung hero

This is your last chance to see this powerful exhibition about the life and writings of Liverpudlian **Edward Rushton** – an ardent abolitionist after he served as a sailor on a slave ship.

*Ends 10 May at International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism)*



## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

▶ **Small Worlds** – explore historic dolls' houses at No 1 Royal Crescent, Bath. Opens 9 May. More info at [no1royalcrescent.org.uk](http://no1royalcrescent.org.uk)

▶ **Poldark** is on DVD from 11 May. Aidan Turner is Ross Poldark, returning from the American Revolutionary War to find his lands in ruin.



# BOOKS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### Exotic England: the Making of a Curious Nation

By Yasmin Alibhai-Brown  
Portobello Books, £20,  
336 pages, hardback

What does it mean to be English? And how would the answer have differed 100 years ago? These are big questions, but Alibhai-Brown delves into them with grace and warmth. She traces how trade shaped the nation socially and physically, how society has been enriched and challenged by the idea of 'otherness', and how people from a range of backgrounds have experienced this story. You may not agree with her views – these are political questions, after all – but this is an important, nuanced exploration.



### MEET THE AUTHOR

**Yasmin Alibhai-Brown** explores how England – as well as shaping parts of the world – has been moulded by other cultures and societies

## “England can never be closed off or become monocultural”

### What first inspired you to write this book?

I agreed to have coffee with an English Defence League sympathiser who had barraged me with emails. For an hour or so, he verbally abused me and ‘coloured’ immigrants but, as

I stood up to leave, he grabbed my hand and admired my Indian bangles. He could not resist the glitter of oriental gold.

Months later, I went to the graveyard where my parents are buried. I belong to a small Shia sect damned by mainstream

Muslims. They do not let us into their cemeteries, so England obliges. My mother and father were Anglophiles – and my husband is English – so I knew I had to write a book about this England, loved by outsiders and enlivened by enigmatic strangers and exotic cultures. It is not the story of immigration, but of England and its fascination with ‘otherness’ abroad and at home.

be doing so defensively, against Europe, multiculturalism – even Scotland. In this book, I write that the English need to know their own dynamism and openness – the diversity in their DNA from when they went across the world to when the world sailed to their island.

### Is immigration intrinsic to England's story?

As soon as the English went forth, outsiders started to come to England. There were black people here as far back as the Elizabethan period – she tried to banish them, but was ignored. Scholars learned Arabic, mixed-race relationships were widespread, and elites were captivated by non-English cultures both here and abroad.

### What do we mean by ‘English’ rather than ‘British’?

England was Britain for centuries. As dominant power, it defined these isles but, after devolution, that dominance was broken. The English clung on to the old edifice the longest, but in time have become more consciously ‘English’. They are trying to define themselves, but seem to

### What new impression of England do you hope that readers leave with?

This is a book about England and its open, expansive, curious nature, which is enraptured by, accommodates and absorbs ‘foreign’ cultures and peoples. England can never be closed off or become monocultural.

**VINDALOO-KIE HERE**  
Exotic spices were shipped in from India to make one of the nation's favourite dishes – curry





## THE BEST OF THE REST

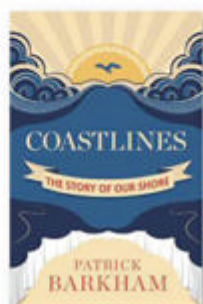


### World History in Minutes: 200 Key Events Explained in an Instant

By Tat Wood and Dorothy Ali

Quercus, £8.99, 416 pages, paperback

From prehistoric people to the internet – via 198 other points in between including the Celts, coffee houses and the credit crunch – this overview of all human history is obviously selective but surprisingly perceptive, with helpful images throughout.

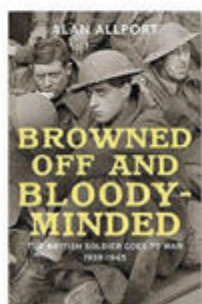


### Coastlines: the Story of our Shore

By Patrick Barkham

Granta Books, £20, 368 pages, hardback

Take a tour of 742 miles of Britain's coastline – “our last repository of wilderness”, as Barkham describes it – with this guide to how the islands' edges have shaped its people (and vice versa). It's not solely about history, with excursions into ecology and geology, but it's a great place to start if you're thinking of walking the heritage trail this spring.



### Browned Off and Bloody-Minded: the British Soldier Goes to War, 1939-1945

By Alan Allport

Yale University Press, £25, 424 pages, hardback

What was it like for the men taken from their everyday lives in 1939 and plunged into the chaos, brutality and tedium of war? That's the question explored in Allport's book, which compassionately charts a huge range of compelling and moving personal stories.

## READ UP ON...

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

#### BEST FOR... THE BIG PICTURE

#### Dreamers of a New Day: Women who Invented the Twentieth Century

By Sheila Rowbotham

Verso, £10.99, 288 pages, paperback

It's remarkable how recently the push for women's rights took place. This is a fact evocatively made clear in this book, which expertly charts the story of women's fight for rights (including, most famously, the vote) from the late 19th century onwards.



#### BEST FOR... AN IN-DEPTH CASE STUDY

#### Votes for Women: the Virago Book of Suffragettes

Edited by Joyce Marlow

Virago, £10.99, 320 pages, paperback

From contemporary books and newspaper articles to extracts from letters and personal diaries, this anthology of documents stresses the roles played by the key players in their fight for suffrage, and also those of their many opponents.



#### BEST FOR... A VISUAL HISTORY

#### The Suffragettes in Pictures

By Diane Atkinson

The History Press, £16.99, 224 pages, paperback

What made the Suffragettes turn to militant deeds? What drove women such as Emmeline Pankhurst, Annie Kenney and Emily Davison? Through these rare and powerful photographs, go behind-the-scenes of the activities of the Women's Social and Political Union.



## FROM BLITZKRIEG TO HIROSHIMA



### WORLD GOES TO WAR

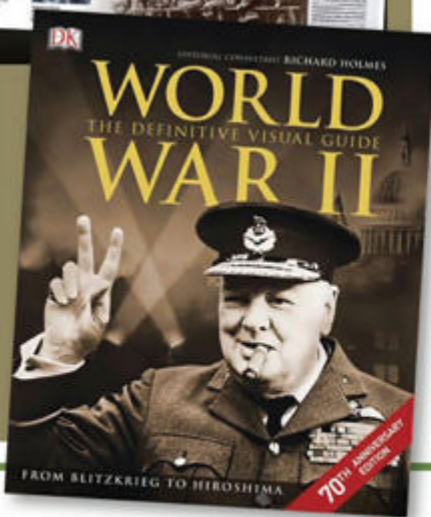
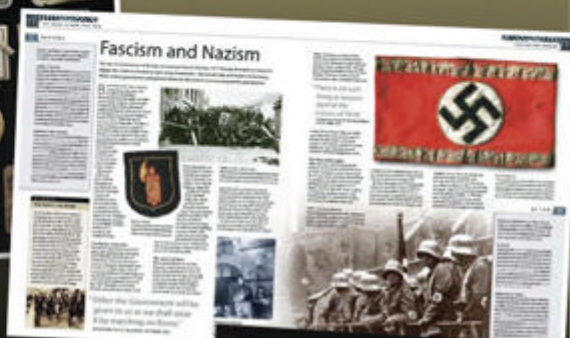
From billycans to battles, this book is bursting with detail

### World War II: the Definitive Visual Guide

By Richard Holmes

Dorling Kindersley, £25, 360 pages, hardback

It's a big subject to say the least, but this weighty tome covers World War II in great detail, using stunning images and artefacts throughout. The overviews and timelines are succinct, while there are more in-depth studies on topics such as Churchill, Dresden and Hiroshima to get your teeth into.

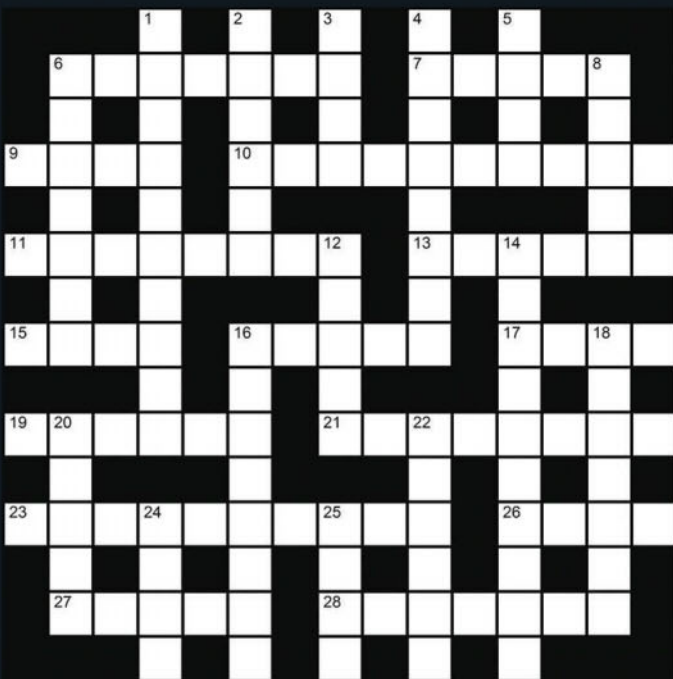




# CROSSWORD N° 16

You could be one of three prize winners if you complete this month's historical crossword

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 6/14 Down** Oscar-winning 1983 film with Jack Nicholson and Shirley MacLaine (5,2,10)  
**7** Code name for one of the Normandy beaches invaded by the Allies on 6 June 1944 (5)  
**9** \_\_\_ of Arc, the 'Maid of Orléans', executed in 1431 (4)  
**10** House Committee on \_\_\_ Activities, notorious panel of the US House of Representatives (2-8)  
**11** Michigan city, home of Henry Ford and HQ of the Ford Motor Company (8)  
**13** Popular but weak Tsar of Russia, 1645-1676 (6)  
**15** Douglas \_\_\_ (born 1930), English Conservative MP and former Home Secretary (4)

- 16** John \_\_\_ (1793-1864), Northamptonshire-born poet, son of a farm labourer (5)  
**17** Qatar's capital city, host of the 2012 United Nations Climate Change Conference (4)  
**19** Fountains, Bolton and Rievaulx, for instance (6)  
**21** Scholar and poet from Renaissance Italy, known for his sonnets (1304-1374) (8)  
**23** County Durham town closely associated with the first railways (10)  
**26** The ruling dynasty of China from 1368 to 1644 (4)  
**27** Name given in 1934 to the Soviet Ballet (now the Mariinsky Ballet) (5)  
**28** \_\_\_ to the Centre of the Earth, novel by Jules Verne (7)

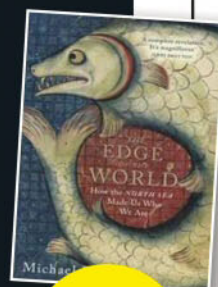
## DOWN

- 1** Small town on the River Severn in Shropshire, known for its historic links with the Industrial Revolution (10)  
**2** Former currency of Spain and Portugal (6)  
**3** King of Mercia in the eighth century who ordered a protective dyke between Wales and England (4)  
**4** Richard \_\_\_ (1617-57), English 'cavalier' poet, author of *To Althea, from Prison* (8)  
**5** The name of a member of Adolf Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party (4)  
**6** Henry David \_\_\_ (1817-62), US philosopher and author of the memoir *Walden* (1854) (7)  
**8** Pioneering video-game company founded in 1972 (5)  
**12** US organisation formed in 1909 to campaign against racial discrimination (initials) (5)  
**14** See 6 Across  
**16** Giacomo \_\_\_ (1725-98), Venetian adventurer and writer - most famous for being an infamous womaniser (8)  
**18** \_\_\_ Carriage, vehicle-for-hire that shares its name with a district of London (7)  
**20** Conrad \_\_\_ (born 1944), Canadian-born media baron jailed for fraud in 2007 (5)  
**22** 'Break, my heart, for I must hold my \_\_\_!' - from *Hamlet*, Act 1, Scene 2 (6)  
**24** Thomas \_\_\_ (1755-1832), cricketer who established a noted cricket ground (4)  
**25** Hideki \_\_\_ (1844-1948), Japanese general and Prime Minister during World War II, hanged for war crimes (4)

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ON SALE **28 MAY 2015**

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# THE WILD WEST

**HEROES AND VILLAINS OF THE WILD FRONTIER**

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RISE OF THE NAZIS **ROSETTA STONE** EMILY  
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BATTLE OF FLODDEN **Q&A AND MORE...**

ISTOCK/ALAMY XI

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# A-Z of History

Egads! **Nige Tassell** entreats you to be entertained by this month's excellent and enlightening episodes



## EXCLAMATION MARK

When the QWERTY keyboard layout was established in 1878, one thing was missing – the exclamation mark. And it stayed missing for almost a century. As late as 1973, *The Secretary's Manual* was still explaining how to make the mark on a manually by typing a full stop, hitting the backspace and typing an apostrophe that floated above the full stop.

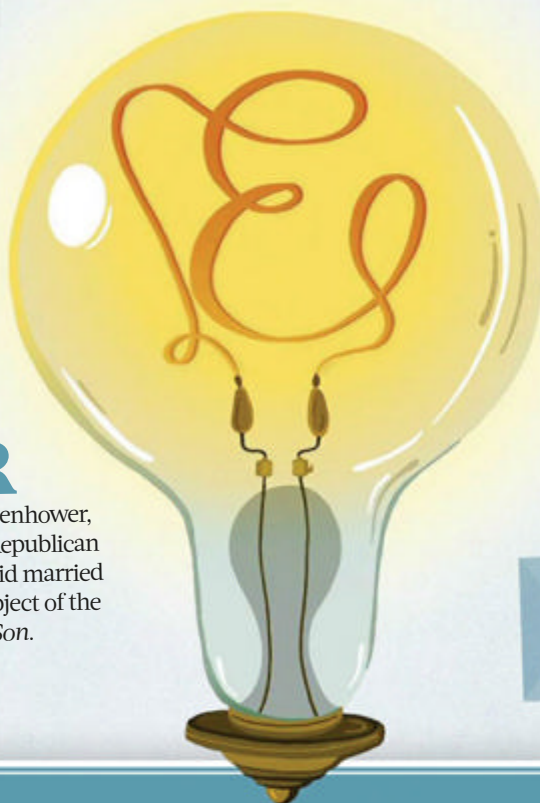
## EISENHOWER

The 34th President of the United States, Dwight D Eisenhower, was related to the man who would become the next Republican President, Richard Nixon. Eisenhower's grandson David married Nixon's daughter Julie in 1968 – the union was the subject of the Creedence Clearwater Revival song *Fortunate Son*.



## EGYPT

It's a wonder Ramesses II, considered one of the most successful and powerful Pharaohs of Egypt, found any time to concentrate on empire-building. By the time of his death at the grand old age of 90, he had fathered 156 children by his various wives – 96 sons and 60 daughters.



## ELECTRICITY

When lightbulb pioneer Thomas Edison died in 1931, fellow electrical engineer Nikola Tesla – not exactly the most socially rounded of people himself – produced a scathing portrait of his former employer for *The New York Times*: “He had no hobby, cared for no sort of amusement of any kind and lived in utter disregard of the most elementary rules of hygiene.”

## ELIZABETH I

Despite once being imprisoned in the Tower of London by her Catholic half-sister Mary I, the Protestant Elizabeth I was buried in Westminster Abbey in the same tomb as the woman she succeeded as queen. The tomb's inscription translates as ‘Consorts in realm and tomb, here we sleep, Elizabeth and Mary, sisters, in hope of resurrection’.



## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

When the central African state changed its name from Spanish Guinea – upon being granted independence in 1968 – its new moniker was somewhat misleading. The Equator doesn't actually pass through it. Annobón, an island belonging to Equatorial Guinea, lies south of the line, while the rest of the country is to the north.

## EVEREST

When, in 1953, Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of the world's tallest mountain alongside Edmund Hillary, it was the seventh Everest expedition he'd embarked on. On the 1953 expedition, Norgay was one of 20 Sherpa guides who accompanied the adventurers, as well as the more than 350 porters and 4,500kg of luggage.



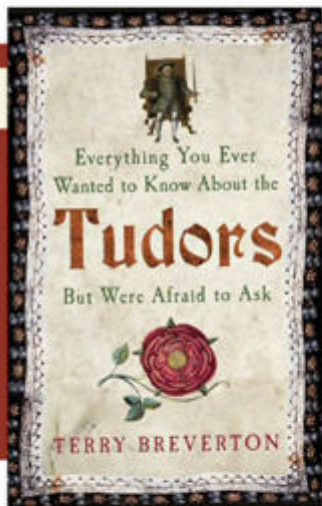
## EMPIRE

For many centuries, the Mongol Empire held the record for ruling over the largest land mass – an area of 12.74 million square miles, dwarfing the empires of Russia, Spain and the Romans. By 1922, however, that title had been relinquished when the expanding British Empire marginally eclipsed the Mongols' territory by 270,000m<sup>2</sup>.



# AMBERLEY

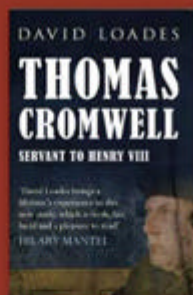
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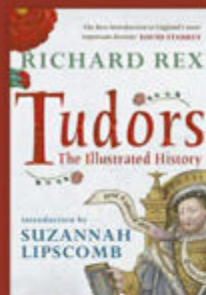
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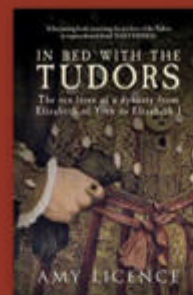
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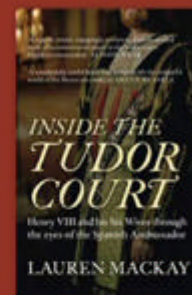


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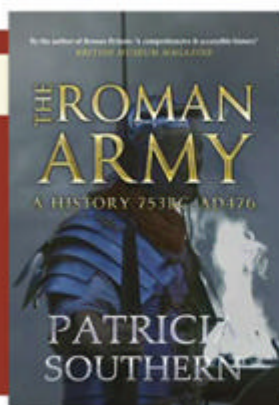
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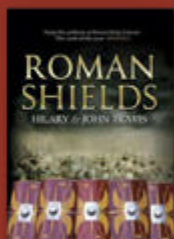
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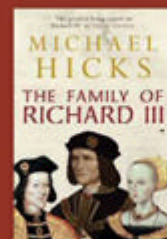
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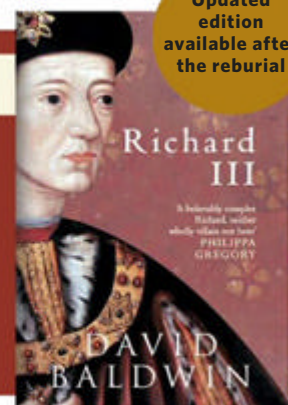
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